

Libyan air crew seek Egypt asylum

CAIRO (AP) — A Libyan military helicopter Sunday landed at an Egyptian airport, and its crew of three asked for political asylum, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. MENA said the aircraft, a Chinook tactical transport helicopter, asked for permission to enter Egyptian airspace in the afternoon in the second such incident in a month. Authorities granted it permission to land at an airport in a western region, after "necessary security precautions were taken," MENA reported. It did not specify where the helicopter flew from, nor which airport it landed at. MENA said the Chinook and its crew, Wing Commander Mustafa Al Taher Karza, flying officer Al Said Mohammad Al Amlouti and technical officer Gamal Massoud Khalifa were taken to an airbase. Earlier this month, five Libyan military men landed at a southern Egyptian airport with their C130 Hercules air transport plane, and requested political asylum. Political asylum was granted to two of its officers, while the status of the remaining three has not been decided.

Rifai visits university

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Sunday met with a group of students from the University of Jordan's various faculties who have been distinguished for their excellent academic performance. Mr. Rifai also visited the faculty of science and technology where he was received by University President Abdul Salam Al Majali and the deans of its various departments.

W. Germany to give 10m marks to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — West Germany is to grant Jordan a 10-million mark loan to help finance the expansion of an X-ray unit at the King Hussein Medical Centre in Amman. The agreement provides for equipping the unit with new equipment. The loan is part of West German capital assistance programme for Jordan originally scheduled for 1986. The agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaana and a representative of the West German Development Bank.

Two die in Saudi floods

JEDDAH (R) — A brother and sister drowned in the Riyadh area of central Saudi Arabia in floodwaters caused by recent heavy rains. Al Riyadh newspaper reported Sunday. It quoted civil defence officials as saying a 16-year-old boy drowned in a pool of floodwater on Friday and his 20-year-old sister died trying to save him during a family weekend holiday near the Wadi Laban dam outside Riyadh.

Syrian press assails Arab-Israeli meeting

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's official press on Sunday said meetings last week between Israeli leaders and Palestinians close to Yasser Arafat were giving away too much and should not be pursued. "Israel always demands direct negotiations without committing itself to any withdrawal from occupied Arab territories or recognising the legal rights of the Palestinian people," said Al Baath, newspaper of Syria's ruling party.

Sella resigns

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli army officer Aviem Sella, indicted by a U.S. court on charges of hiring convicted American spy Jonathan Jay Pollard, resigned his post as head of an Israeli force base, Israel Television said Sunday. Colonel Sella's promotion earlier this month created the move and ordered a boycott on contacts with Col. Sella and the Tel Nof base.

Gorbachev to visit Czechoslovakia

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Czechoslovakia soon, the official news agency TASS said Sunday. The agency did not give specific dates, but Western diplomats in Moscow said they expected the visit to last from April 6 to April 8.

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Iraq reports raids on Iranian pipeline network and Kharg

Aziz: Iran using land-based missiles against ships

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Sunday a large force of its warplanes attacked the pipeline network through which oil is pumped to Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island in the northern Gulf.

"Large numbers of our warplanes attacked the installations where the pipelines... pump oil from Ganaveh to Kharg Island, turning them into rubble and setting them ablaze..." a military spokesman said.

He did not give the exact location of the area attacked but Ganaveh terminal is on the Iranian Gulf coast some 50 kilometres northeast of Kharg Island, which itself has been attacked at least 135 times since August 1985.

The spokesman said the raid took place at about 9 a.m. All aircraft returned safely to base, he added.

Iraqi warplanes launched a second attack on the Ganaveh pipeline complex later Sunday, and also hit the Imam Hassan oilfield and an Iranian gumbast, a high command spokesman said. Precise locations were not given.

Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said on Thursday that Iraq would redouble efforts to destroy Iran's oil sites because Tehran insisted on continuing the Gulf war.

The ruling Baath Party daily Al Thawra described renewed Iraqi air attacks over the past week as a

Mr. Aziz said the United States had announced the existence of the missiles so late after their arrival as part of its efforts to neutralise the effects of the secret U.S. arms sale to Iran.

"The missiles existed in the Gulf for many months... but they became a serious topic for America and the West only after the failure of the Iranian invasion plan (against the South Iraqi city of Basra) and as a balloon to cover up the Iranate story," Mr. Aziz said.

In an related development, reports from Dubai said the South Korean sailors who survived an Iranian gumbast attack on their tanker in the Gulf on Saturday swam for two hours before being picked up by United Arab Emirates (UAE) fishermen.

Shipping officials quoted by news agencies said Jim Jeong Cheol, second engineer of the small Singapore-flag vessel Sedra, was climbing up from the engine room at about 3:30 a.m. when he heard a loud explosion.

"There were four of us on deck then and we all jumped straight into the sea," Mr. Jim said.

"I don't know what happened to the other two but we swam toward what we thought was the coast for about two hours before a fishing boat sighted us around daybreak," he said.

Eight of the 12-man crew, including the Indian captain, died in the resulting fire, and one is still missing, sources said.

Israel says 3 commandos killed and 5 soldiers wounded in clash

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Three commandos were killed and five Israeli soldiers wounded in a clash Saturday night north of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, Israeli military officials said Sunday.

The officials said the wounded, who sustained light to moderate injuries, were evacuated by helicopter after the incident near the village of Yater, about two kilometres north of the border zone.

Police in Lebanon earlier reported about 60 Israeli troops landed from two helicopters just north of the zone and fired assault rifles and heavy machine guns.

Israeli officials did not identify the group to which the commandos belonged, but the area is considered by the Israeli army as a site used by Hizbollah militiamen to launch Katyusha rocket attacks on Israel.

Two Soviet-made Katyushas fired from Lebanon hit Israel's northern Galilee region last week, slightly wounding 10 people. Israeli troops said they killed two Lebanese militiamen on the edge of the zone last Sunday.

Israeli warplanes bombed Palestinian camps near Sidon in two raids earlier this week.

The Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia said Saturday the Israeli helicopters raked several villages with machine-gun fire north of the "security zone."

"Israeli helicopters mopped the villages of Wadi Al Sit, Srobine, Kafra and Yater this afternoon. Then they landed in Wadi Al Sit, where the resistance men attacked them," an Amal communique issued in Beirut said.

The communique, delivered to several Beirut newspapers late Saturday, said the Israeli landing came soon after Amal men clashed with an Israeli patrol for two hours in Wadi Al Sit.

Crisis with Libya is over, Mahdi tells Sudan cabinet

KHARTOUM (AP) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi told his cabinet on Sunday that the problem of the presence of Libyan troops in western Sudan was over, but did not specify whether the Libyans had actually withdrawn.

"The problem of the presence of Libyan troops in the country's western border has now come to an end and the existing problem has been resolved at political and military levels following a recent contact with the Libyan leadership," Mr. Mahdi said.

His comments were carried by the Sudan News Agency (SUNA). The agency said Mr. Mahdi told the regular meeting of the cabinet that "the issue has ended at this extent" and would no longer be on the cabinet's agenda.

He did not further elaborate. Earlier this week, Mr. Mahdi accused Libya of ignoring demands that it withdraw an estimated 1,000 troops from western Sudan and threatened action unless they get out. The Libyans launched attacks against Chadian government troops but were driven back into Sudan.

Mr. Mahdi's comments to parliament came after the departure of a Libyan envoy, Omar Ishkal, secretary general of the Libyan people's congress, who carried a message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to the Sudanese prime minister.

'Pollard-Israel link upset U.S. operation in S. Africa'

LONDON (AP) — American spy Jonathan Pollard gravely compromised U.S. intelligence gathering operations against South Africa by passing on details to Israel which alerted the white-minority government, a British newspaper reported Sunday.

The Sunday Times said this was revealed in a secret 41-page affidavit prepared by U.S. Secretary of State Casper Weinberger for Pollard's trial in Washington.

Pollard, an American Jew and former U.S. navy analyst, was convicted this month of spying for Israel and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The Sunday Times, in the report from Washington, said Mr. Weinberger disclosed in his affidavit that America maintained intelligence gathering in "friendly countries" and that he suggested "Pollard had done immense damage to this."

"Three countries, in particular, are singled out: Israel itself, Saudi Arabia and South Africa, said the report.

Israelis unclear, the report said

"But the (U.S.) Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is convinced that much of what reached Israel was promptly handed over to Pretoria."

"As a result, the South Africans were alerted not only to the fact that they were a target of America's intelligence gathering effort, but also of the extent of that effort and the way it was being conducted."

The Sunday Times did not say whether Pollard also passed on information about the alleged U.S. operations in Israel and Saudi Arabia.

However, it was reported during the trial that the information Pollard passed to Israel included details on weapons systems owned by Arab countries.

The Sunday Times said much of Pollard's data consisted of unedited reports from agents and monitoring stations.

"That gave South African counter-intelligence plenty of material to track down spies in its midst," said the newspaper.

The report added that U.S. officials wanted, among other things, independent assessments of South Africa's ability to resist economic sanctions and of the effectiveness of a long-standing international arms embargo.



KING VISITS ARMY UNIT: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, accompanied by His Highness Prince Hamzah bin Al Hussein, Sunday visited a formation of the 12th Royal Mechanized Division. His Majesty patronised celebrations held by one of the formation's units, named after Prince

Hamzah, on the occasion of the Prince's seventh birthday. The celebrations included exercises and contests by the unit's personnel. The King presented prizes to the winners. The formation's commander presented a commemorative gift to Prince Hamzah on the occasion of his birthday (Petra photo).

Carter: Arafat could conditionally recognise Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Sunday Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat likely would be willing to recognise Israel in return for a role in an international peace conference.

Mr. Carter said he based his perceptions about Mr. Arafat's new attitude on talks with Jordanian and Egyptian leaders during his current swing through the Middle East.

The former Democratic president also criticised the Republican successor, Ronald Reagan, for a lack of interest in the Middle East, which he said was the most likely site of a future war.

The White House responded sharply nine days ago when Mr. Carter, speaking in Cairo, said the Reagan administration failed to devote enough energy to this region. The White House called Mr. Carter's comments deeply disappointing and unhelpful.

But Mr. Carter rebuffed suggestions that he should not speak ill of the U.S. government while travelling abroad.

"I've been much more reticent overseas than I have at home," Mr. Carter said in NBC-TV studios here where his remarks were recorded for Sunday's Meet the Press television show. He added that he would not "stand mute... when I have something I consider very important to say."

Mr. Carter also said under his presidency the National Security Council (NSC) could not have conducted secret operations without his knowledge. "I don't believe that's possible," he said.

Also Sunday, Mr. Carter lunched with minister without portfolio Ezer Weizman. Mr. Weizman played a key role in negotiating Israel's 1979 treaty with Egypt.

Mr. Carter, who has visited Algeria, Egypt, Syria and Jordan, winds up his tour Tuesday when he leaves Israel for the United States.

Mr. Carter said most Palestinians he met viewed the PLO as their representative. Israel refuses to recognise the organisation and Israeli leaders have said they would not be willing to meet PLO officials at a negotiating table.

Mr. Carter said he too had never met with Mr. Arafat in keeping with U.S. policy. But he added: "I'm thoroughly familiar with what he relays to the Jordanians and particularly to the Egyptians."

"It is my understanding that in the format of a peace process that is definitive in nature that he is willing to do these things (recognise Israel) in order to be accepted as a spokesman for the

3 sextuplets reportedly in critical condition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three of the sextuplets born here last Friday were still in critical condition on Sunday and chances for their survival were slim, hospital sources said.

"The three babies are placed in incubators under intensive medical care, though they have little chance of survival," the source who asked anonymity told the Jordan Times.

Two baby girls and one baby boy of the six infants died on Saturday.

The sextuplets were born to a Jordanian woman. They were delivered by a Caesarean operation after a six-and-a-half month pregnancy, the first such case ever recorded in Jordan. Such instances, according to medical statistics, occur only once in every three million births.

Bonn to expel 2 Lebanese

BONN (R) — Bonn plans to expel a Lebanese hijack suspect and his brother in an attempt to win the freedom of two West Germans held by unknown captors in Beirut, the newspaper Bild said Sunday.

The mass-circulation newspaper said that the two men — Mohammad Ali and Abbas Hammadei — would be put on trial in West Germany before being sent back to Lebanon.

The two West Germans, businessman Rudolf Cordes and

engineer Alfred Schmidt, were seized in apparent reprisal for the arrest of Mohammad Ali Hammadei at Frankfurt airport last January. Mr. Hammadei was found to have explosives in his baggage.

The newspaper's unsourced report said the government would not extradite Mr. Hammadei to the United States, which wants to try him on charges of air piracy and murder stemming from the 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut.

S. African minister found shot dead

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa's only cabinet minister of English descent, Environment Affairs Minister John Wiley, was found shot in the head on Sunday in an apparent suicide.

Mr. Wiley, 60, was found on his bed with a gun in his hand, a police spokesman said. Investigations were continuing but no crime was suspected.

The minister's wife Jeanne returned home Sunday morning to find her husband in Noordhoek, south of Cape Town, locked. Her son climbed through a window to open the door, police said.

Mr. Wiley was the only minister from the English-speaking community in a cabinet dominated by the Afrikaners of Dutch descent who make up 60 per cent of South Africa's white minority.

His death poses a problem for the National Party (NP) which has two days to select a new candidate before nominations close for a whites-only general election on May 6.

A right-winger, Mr. Wiley had been member of parliament for the Cape province constituency of Simonstown since 1966. He had belonged to several parties before joining the NP in 1980.

He was facing a strong election challenge from John Scott of the centrist Progressive Federal Party (PFF).

FOR RENT

Furnished apartments with services in the Dara building. (See page 3)

Mitterrand defends arms sales

PARIS (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand defended arms sales to Iraq Sunday, saying "the frontiers of the Arab World" must not be breached. In a television interview, the president pointed out that the arms sales started in 1976, four years before the start of the Iran-Iraq war, and that the arms agreements had been regularly renewed. "I think that in 1976, the (conservative) government of the day was right, which is why I continued this policy," he said. Mr. Mitterrand took office in 1981. "If the frontiers of the Arab World was to be breached, the consequences for the world, and in any case for us, all the Mediterranean basin, the development of all sorts of fundamentalisms, would go all the way to the Atlantic," Mr. Mitterrand warned. One of the key demands of pro-Iranian kidnappers holding French hostages in Lebanon has been for an end to French arms sales to Iraq. Asked later about the hostages, Mr. Mitterrand confirmed he had told former Premier Laurent Fabius and current Premier Jacques Chirac he would be ready to swap Anis Naccache, leader of a group who tried to kill the Shah's last premier, Shahpour Bakhtiar, in Paris, against the freedom of all the French hostages.

Snipers kill 5 Palestinians on march near Shatila

BEIRUT (R) — Snipers killed five Palestinians on Sunday when they fired on a group of hungry women and children trying to march out of the besieged Shatila refugee camp in Beirut, a Greek-Canadian doctor there said.

"About 150 women and children tried passively to break the siege. They got 20 (metres) out when they were fired on," Dr. Chris Giannou told Reuters by telephone. "There were five dead. One body is still in the street."

The head of women's organisations in Shatila, who gave her name as Amneh, said a 14-year-old girl and her mother were among those killed in the shooting, near the Sharq cinema on the northern edge of the camp. She said 10 women were wounded.

The Shi'ite Amal militia denied Palestinian charges that its fighters had fired on the demonstration, the first of its kind at Shatila, besieged by Amal since last Oct. 29.

It said the shooting came from inside the shantytown, where Palestinian fighters defend buildings devastated by shellfire in an area reduced to 200 by 200 metres.

Dr. Giannou, 37, described living conditions for Shatila's 3,200 people as "very critical, close to catastrophic" (See page 2).

Women at Shatila's sister camp of Bourj Al Barajneh in southern Beirut demonstrated several times last week for the right to use a safe route to buy food.

Amal announced last month that it had lifted its blockades of the two camps, but it still controls access.

Palestinians say more than 30 women have been killed by snipers at Bourj Al Barajneh while walking out to buy supplies.

Amal has accused Palestinians of using the women as cover for advances toward Shi'ite front lines.

Until Sunday, Shatila women had not dared to test Amal's declaration that it had ended the siege.

Shamir reelected Herut chief, vows to continue occupation

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, vowing the occupied West Bank and Gaza would remain in Israeli hands forever, was re-elected chairman of the right-wing Herut Party on Sunday a year after he was booted off the stage at its last stormy convention.

Mr. Shamir's confirmation as leader of the party was never in doubt but the choice of his eventual successor has touched off an intense power struggle among Deputy Prime Minister David Levy and former defence ministers Ariel Sharon and Moshe Arens.

In an acceptance speech, the prime minister urged his party to fight any attempt to give up the occupied Arab territories in exchange for peace.

"They will be in our hands forever," he said.

A year ago, a red-faced Shamir was shouted off the podium when angry delegates accused him of plotting to deprive Levy of a key

position in the party leadership. The convention, which broke up in disarray with fist-fights on the platform, reconvened Sunday with applause for the prime minister.

Mr. Shamir accused supporters of an international conference on Middle East peace, backed by Labour Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, of trying to avoid direct talks with Arab states.

Further chaos at the convention over the election of its officeholders would seriously undermine Mr. Shamir's authority and could force him to step down, political analysts say.

Mr. Shamir's departure could topple the fragile "national unity" government, in which the partnership with Mr. Peres' Labour Party is based on a personal agreement between the two men, not their parties.

"If Shamir cannot control his own party, how can he be fit to govern?" a Peres aide asked before the convention.

Arab Bank Ltd. holds 57th general assembly meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Assembly of shareholders of the Arab Bank Ltd. held its 57th meeting at the Arab Bank headquarters in Amman under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul Majid Choman, chairman of the bank's board of directors.

The meeting was attended by representatives of a department in the Ministry of Industry and Trade entrusted with supervising the work of Jordanian companies, as the bank's shareholders in various Arab countries.

The general assembly discussed the bank's general budget and closing accounts as well as the board of directors' annual report (See pages 6, 7 and 8).



Abdul Majid Choman

Cabinet approves 1987 CSCC budget, announces education appointments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet on Sunday approved the general 1987 budget of the Civil Service Consumer Corporation and also gave the go-ahead for the appointment of 76 new employees in the corporation. The council of ministers also approved the formation of a new board for the Hittieh-Aqaba Railway corporation. The new board will be chaired by Transport Minister Ahmad Dakhan.

During the regular Cabinet session on Saturday evening, it was decided that the Ministry of Education will have a new secretary general as of April 1, 1987. He is Dr. Radi Al Waqfi who has been serving as the director of education in Ajloun district. Dr. Waqfi will succeed Dr. Ahmad Al Bashairi who has been appointed director general of the orphan financial development corporation to replace Mr. Hameed Al Tal who has retired. The new appointments were approved by the Cabinet during its session. The Cabinet also decided to



Dr. Radi Al Waqfi

retire 28 senior officials and directors of departments at the Ministry of Education as of April 1, 1987.

Bran subsidy

The Cabinet approved recommendations submitted by a special committee on drought, and these include a decision to reduce the price of bran sold to local

farmers by JD 10 per tonne. A tonne of bran will now be sold for JD 25. The Cabinet said that the treasury will cover the difference in price. The subsidy will amount to JD 1.4 million annually and the move was taken to encourage animal wealth development in the Kingdom, the Cabinet said in a statement.

According to the statement, the Cabinet also endorsed a recently signed protocol between Jordan and Sudan to promote economic and trade relations between the two countries. Under the terms of the protocol, the two countries agreed to exchange goods worth \$50 million, shared equally between the two sides over a period of one year. The protocol was signed by representatives from both countries in Amman on March 19.

One of the Cabinet's decisions on Saturday was the approval of a general 1987 budget for the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA). The budget amounts to JD 81.5 million.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai confers with a delegation from the Supreme Soviet (Petra photo)

Rifai, Fayeze confer with Soviet delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Sunday conferred with a delegation from the Supreme Soviet now visiting Jordan at the invitation of Mr. Akel Al Fayeze, the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament.

At the meeting, Mr. Rifai expounded Jordan's policies with regard to Middle East issues and discussed the Kingdom's endeavours for the establishment of a lasting peace.

Mr. Rifai also reiterated the need for convening an international conference on the Middle East to be attended by all concerned parties and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Several Parliament deputies attended the meeting.

The delegation, led by Mr. Vladimir Orlov, earlier held a meeting with Mr. Fayeze to discuss the Middle East question. Mr. Fayeze referred Jordan's endeavours for resolving the Middle East problem through an international conference and he reviewed current efforts to enlist all nation's support for the conference. Mr. Fayeze also commended the Soviet Union for its support of Arab just causes and Arab rights in occupied Palestine. Jordan and the Soviet Union hold similar views on numerous world issues, especially nuclear disarmament, Mr. Fayeze said.

Referring to the situation in the occupied Arab territories, Mr. Fayeze said that Israel was practicing inhuman measures against the indigenous population, confiscating Arab land and building settlements to obliterate the Arab identity.

Referring to the Gulf war he said that its continuation causes more sufferings and tragedies for all the people in the region, especially the Iraqi and Iranian people. Mr. Fayeze said that world powers should exert greater

efforts to end the conflict and bring about peace to the region.

He also said that an exchange of visits by parliamentarians on both sides could bolster ties of understanding and friendship between the two countries.

For his part, Mr. Orlov said that his visit to Jordan re-emphasised the need for real international efforts to help bring about a permanent and just peace in the region. He said that the Soviet Union would pursue all efforts for convening an international conference because, he said, it is the only means to establish peace.

The Soviet delegation visited Al Baqa refugee camp later on Sunday and were briefed by officials from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) on services offered to the Palestinian refugees. The district governor of Balqa briefed the visitors on Jordan's contribution to these services, especially in education, electricity and water supplies.

After the Baqa visit the delegation went to the Greco-Roman city of Jerash and toured its different sections. They were accompanied on the tour by Mr. Ismail Hijazi, deputy speaker of the Lower House of Parliament.

Khatib meets TASS director

Minister of Information Mohammad Khatib Sunday received Director General of TASS News Agency Mikhail Loevo, who is accompanying the Soviet parliamentary delegation.

The talks covered means of promoting information cooperation between Jordan and the Soviet Union and in particular between TASS News Agency and the Jordan News Agency, Petra. Mr. Loevo is also a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme Soviet.

Canadian experts briefed on Jordan's agricultural policy

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of Canadian agricultural experts on Sunday conferred with Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, the under secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, to discuss and review agricultural cooperation between Jordan and Canada.

Dr. Lawzi outlined Jordan's agricultural policy which, he said, is aimed at helping to attain economic integration among Arab states and food security in the Arab World. Dr. Lawzi in-

formed the team of his ministry's agricultural plans and programmes and the agricultural patterns system being applied in Jordan to help make the country self-sufficient in different crops.

The team are visiting Jordan at the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture and will be oriented on Jordan's agricultural experiments. They will also tour agricultural projects and agricultural stations in the country.

RSS official seconded to Islamic academy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Hani Fawzi Al Mulqi, the director of the Solar Energy Research Centre at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), has been seconded to the Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS) to serve as its executive director. The newly established Amman-based IAS and its 38-member general assembly is due to convene in Amman on April 15 to entrust its board of directors with drawing up a working plan and programmes for the academy, according to Dr. Mulqi.

Dr. Mulqi said that the academy will offer advice in scientific and technological fields to various Islamic organisations, will

help work out programmes and carry out activities related to science and technology and will also encourage scientists and researchers from Islamic states to carry out joint projects.

A decision to establish the IAS was taken by the Islamic summit conference held in Casablanca in January 1984 upon the recommendations of an Islamic ministerial committee chaired by Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq. General Zia Ul Haq and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan co-chaired the academy for which a general assembly has been elected together with a nine-member board of directors chaired by Dr. Mumtaz Ali from Pakistan.



Dr. Hani Fawzi Al Mulqi

Education needs public support—Crown Prince

ZARQA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday urged the public to help the Ministry of Education finance the education process in Jordan and said that education should have national priority because of its far reaching effects on future generations.

should visit industrial organisations in the country and discuss their requirements of manpower, Prince Hassan said. Such visits and dialogues, he said, are bound to enhance the theoretical lessons which the students receive in class.

At the outset of the meeting Mr. Ali Hanabdeh, the director of education in Zarqa Governorate, made a speech in which he outlined the different problems facing the educational sector in the governorate.

Prince Hassan earlier made a tour of Zarqa Governorate and visited Zarqa Governor Eid Qatameh at his residence. The governor briefed the Crown Prince on the situation in schools of the district and said that at present the governorate has 444 schools.

Prince Hassan later toured Jinnaa district in Zarqa where he met with local residents and inquired about their conditions. He also called at a number of schools in the district and at secondary schools in Zarqa.

Prince Hassan was accompanied on the tour by Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi and senior officials from the Ministry of Education.

Addressing a meeting of educationalists, directors of schools and education departments gathered at the Comprehensive School for Boys in Zarqa, Prince Hassan said that the educational process should not be a process of turning out educated people but rather an integrated process for providing the community with its needs of well-trained young men and women. This is especially important today as Jordan has begun to witness a problem of unemployment where the unemployed are either untrained or decline to take up trades or jobs involving manual work, Prince Hassan added.

He referred to a study on the country's educational policy prepared by a special team of specialists and educationalists and said that this study will be put forward for general discussion at a general meeting which will tackle all aspects of the educational

process in the country. In this coming meeting Prince Hassan said educationalists, teachers and all those involved in the educational process, even parents, will be welcome to discuss the education situation and the problems which impede its development.

Prince Hassan said that adequate buildings should be made available to serve as schools in order to alleviate the problem of overcrowding. He said that sufficient land for school buildings should be made available in the Zarqa region in order to accommodate the increasing number of students and to end the two-shift system which is not suitable and places additional burdens on schools and teachers.

Jordan is in need of skilled manpower capable of adapting to the real needs of the community and therefore students should be involved in open and frank dialogues with their teachers and

Princess Sarvath graduates first group of students from YWMA training centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday attended a graduation ceremony for the first batch of students from the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) Centre for Special Education.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday presents certificates to the first batch of graduates who completed courses run by the Young Women's Muslim Association Centre for Special Education (Petra photo)

The centre, which was established in 1972 under the honorary presidency of Princess Sarvath, provides education to handicapped children and also helps them find employment in private and public institutions.

At the outset of the ceremony, the centre's director made a speech outlining the objectives of the centre and the course of education given to the handicapped children to help them adapt to normal social life.

Princess Sarvath later distributed diplomas to the 22 graduates in the presence of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid and Princess Majida as well as Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi and relatives of the graduates.

The centre has helped five of its graduates find jobs in local companies and two have been given employment by their relatives in businesses. At least 14

graduates will be given jobs at a workshop established at the King Hussein Industrial City for the manufacture of wooden furniture.

International symposium on paediatrics to open in Amman on Thursday

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The fourth international paediatric symposium entitled "Recent Developments in Paediatrics" will open this Thursday under the patronage of Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh.

In a press conference Dr. Hasan Pharaon, president of the Jordan Paediatric Society, said that the conference will last for a period of two days and will include eight separate sessions. "All Jordanian physicians are encouraged and invited to attend, although most of the topics to be discussed in the sessions are aimed at paediatricians, general

practitioners and resident physicians," Dr. Pharaon said.

In addition to the 200 Jordanian physicians already registered, guest lecturers from England, Germany, Holland and Finland will be participating. Dr. Pharaon told reporters that representatives from all the Eastern Mediterranean countries have also been invited to attend.

"We expect approximately 400 physicians to be present," reflecting a growing concern among physicians for such specialised events, he said.

The conference, to be held at the Marriott Hotel, will begin with opening speeches from the

Minister of Health, the president of the Jordanian Medical Association, Dr. Hassan Khreis, and Dr. Pharaon, who will also head the conference.

The working sessions will begin immediately afterwards. Discussions will revolve around the following topics: prevention of high-risk pregnancy, treatment of premature infants, feeding premature infants, recent advances in infant nutrition, recent advances in etiology, physiopathology, and treatment of diarrhoea, bleeding disorders, icterus neonatorum, new vaccines, epidemiology of hepatitis in Jordan, and neonatal infections.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawzi receives statement on human rights

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi on Sunday received a statement from the Spanish Senate issued on the 20th anniversary of the approval by the United Nations General Assembly of the international agreement on civilian rights and basic freedoms. The statement urged all countries to sign the international document which guarantees the freedoms and civil rights of all nations and upholds human rights and basic principles on co-existence and international cooperation.

Fayeze meets with Greek ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akel Al Fayeze, who is also the president of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU), on Sunday received Greek Ambassador in Amman Hamud Velladias. They discussed existing relations between the two countries in various fields. Mr. Fayeze was briefed by Mr. Velladias on his country's view vis-a-vis its current crisis with Turkey over oil drilling rights in the Aegean Sea. Mr. Fayeze expressed hope that the dispute between the two countries would be settled through peaceful means.

Arab justice ministers to meet April 11

AMMAN (J.T.) — The fifth session of the Arab Justice Ministers conference will open here on April 11. A Jordanian delegation to the conference has been formed and will be headed by Minister of Justice Riyadh Al Shakra. Secretary General of the Arab Justice Ministers Council Mohammad Miko is due here on Monday to discuss arrangements and preparations for the conference.

Commercial deposits stand at JD 1.95b

AMMAN (Petra) — The total deposits in Jordanian commercial banks, including the Housing Bank, amounted to JD 1,949,885,000 at the end of January 1987, according to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). In a statistical bulletin issued Sunday, the CBJ said that of this amount public sector institutions held JD 33,798 million while the remainder was deposited by the private sector.

Committee studies public transport

AMMAN (Petra) — A special committee from the Greater Amman Municipality and the Traffic Department has completed a report on public transport services in the Greater Amman area. The report contains proposals for a general transport policy and the current situation of public transport services in Greater Amman and means of improving services. The committee was set up following a field tour of bus and service taxi stations in Amman last February by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and Interior Minister Rajai Dajani.

Dakhqan to visit Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister Ahmad Dakhan will leave for Sudan on Tuesday at the head of a Jordanian delegation on a several day visit to Sudan. During the visit, Mr. Dakhan will hold talks with officials at the Sudanese Transport Ministry on bolstering and further promoting bilateral relations in various transport fields, especially in air and land transport.

Chamber of industry team leaves for Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Amman Chamber of Industry board of directors Sunday left for Baghdad on a several-day working visit to Iraq. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with the Iraqi minister of industry and officials at the Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce and Industry on means of strengthening and bolstering economic cooperation between Jordan and Iraq. The delegation is led by the chamber's president Issam Bdeir.

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Aegean dispute lives on

THE tension between Greece and Turkey have subsided — for the moment at least. After a couple of tense days, in which naval forces of both sides faced each other in the Aegean, international pressure and reason have luckily prevailed. We can only hope that the two sides can work out a long-term agreement over their territorial dispute to head off another such flare-up.

The present crisis began this week when Turkey threatened to send a ship to explore for oil in the disputed waters. This, Turkey claimed, was in response to a Greek declaration of its intention to drill for oil off Thassos Island, which Turkey claims is international waters. Escorted by Turkish warships, the Sismik 1, the oil exploration ship, set out from Ankara on Saturday, prompting the Greeks to mobilise their naval forces, and, at the same time, threaten to close an American base.

After some tense moments, and some pressure on Turkey from other NATO countries, especially the U.S., Ankara agreed not to press the issue and held back the Sismik 1. Greece reciprocated by assuring Turkey that an oil-consortium would not drill for oil and by withdrawing the threat of closing any American bases. Thus, a naval military clash was averted between two members of NATO.

The Greek-Turkish dispute over the Aegean goes back to the dissolution of the Ottoman empire and the founding of modern Greece and Turkey. The conflict flared up in 1976, leading to a truce under what was known as the Berne Agreement, which stipulates that "Athens and Ankara undertake to abstain from any initiative or act relating to the continental shelf of the Aegean Sea which might prejudice negotiations." These negotiations, however, have not succeeded in providing an agreement over the disputed waters.

Under the U.N. Law of the Sea, agreed upon in 1982, Greece claims a 12-mile limit around each of its 2,000 islands, a limit which according to Turkey gives Greece over 70 per cent of the Aegean. This, says Turkey, is unacceptable. Turkey has even threatened to go to war if Greece attempts to enforce the 12-mile limit. Thus, Greece's reported declaration of intent to drill for oil was, as Turkey saw it, an implicit attempt to enforce the limit. That cooler heads prevailed, and both sides refrained from pressing the issue, can only be applauded. We can only hope that the danger of confrontation has brought home to everyone involved, including NATO and the U.N., the need to reach a speedy and equitable solution to the Aegean disagreement. As we have just seen, the dispute can be ignored only at the great risk of war.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Words are not enough

IT seems from Israeli leaders' statements and continued manifestations of Tel Aviv's official policy of aggression on the Arabs that there is no imminent end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Also the disarray in the ranks of the Arab countries makes the possibility of an imminent solution to the Middle East problem very far indeed. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Saturday that Israel was in no hurry for a solution with the Arab countries, and was only seeking direct negotiations with each one alone. There is really nothing in the Arab stand which can make Israel change its mind and accept the idea of an international conference which the Arabs continue to advocate. The present weak Arab situation and the lack of coordination of policies among Arab leaders prompt Israel to pursue its objectives and scoff at all Arab countries' ideas. The Arabs will continue to hear Shamir calling for direct negotiations and insisting that the Arabs hold direct talks with the Jewish state as long as they are disunited and weak and incapable of taking the initiative diplomatically or militarily.

Al Dustour: Diplomacy continues but...

IN a drive to secure the convening of the proposed international conference on the Middle East, Jordan continues its diplomatic offensive world-wide to enlist support and assistance from various countries. But it is clear that such a conference will have more value and can reach fruitful results, and the Arab causes can guarantee the backing of all world nations if the Arabs adopt a unified policy and unify their positions. Since all Arab states seek the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, their leaders should come to agreement on the proper approach for a lasting solution for the problem. There is indeed good indication that the international community is fully behind the idea of this conference, but the Arab position will win further weight if the Arabs are united and if their countries mobilise all their resources and their power to regain their rights and their lands. Jordan has been instrumental in securing the support of the European Community, and also other nations for the convening of the international conference. There is no doubt that Jordanian diplomacy will continue to move in this direction.

Sawt Al Shaab: Fishing in muddy waters

EVER since Syrian troops were deployed in west Beirut, their commanders realised that the move was not a mere picnic along the beach, but rather a hard mission intended to bring back peace to the embattled city. The Syrian troops entered the city in order to remove all forms of militia presence in accordance with an agreement with local party leaders. The deployment was successful in that it secured an end to the factional fighting in the streets of Beirut and brought back peace and security and calm to the city residents. The Syrians are now involved in implementing their second stage of action. They have called on the leaders of warring factions to meet together for a national reconciliation which is really required for a lasting settlement to the civil strife in Lebanon. But as the Syrians were busily trying to bring back peace and security, certain elements have been working in the dark, conspiring against the security of the country. These elements whose selfish interests have been damaged and endangered with the deployment of Syrian troops are Israeli and Iranian agents and their allies who want to continue to fish in muddy waters.

The struggle against war crimes goes on

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

IT is certainly most gratifying for the cause of humanitarian law and human rights to learn that the federal government of Canada intends to take immediate measures to amend its criminal code in order to prosecute all persons found within its jurisdiction who are suspected of perpetrating "war crimes" or "crimes against humanity." This new and bold initiative by Canada, which came in the wake of the Deschenes Commission's report to the Canadian nation constituted to investigate files of some 250 Canadian citizens suspected of committing atrocities during World War II, heralds a new phase in the annals of the long struggle against war crimes and crimes against humanity and goes well beyond the scope and dimension of the Nazi war crimes which had played the pivotal and catalytic role in articulating, in the first place, the foundation for this new Canadian endeavour and served as a spring board for the broader crusade against such heinous crimes.

Now, one would rightfully expect other countries, especially those with high credentials in the general struggle for the promotion and protection of human rights, to follow suit and emulate Canada's determination and political will in the quest for the punishment and eradication of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

While we commend the Deschenes Commission for unleashing the forces for action in this domain and congratulate the federal government of Canada for its bold and swift reaction to the Commission's findings and recommendations, we must remind ourselves as well that much of Canada's action and reaction does not really go beyond its treaty obligations and the scope of relevant international law.

As a state party to the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and as a contracting party in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Convention on the Non-applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity, Canada has been all along treaty-bound to put these conventions into effect by legislative and other measures. It will be recalled that Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which entered into force in 1951, clearly defines genocide as any act committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group by killing members thereof or causing serious bodily or mental harm to them or deliberately inflicting on them conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction in whole or in part. Article III thereof prescribes that not only genocide per se is punishable but also the conspiracy, the attempt, and the complicity to commit genocide are punishable as well under the convention. Maybe Canada had these provisions in mind when it refused the accreditation of General Amos Yaron as Israel's military attaché in Ottawa.

Seen from this vantage point of view, Canada was clearly treaty-bound to enact laws with a view to prosecute and punish persons found guilty of the crime of genocide which clearly encompasses as well the Nazi war crimes and other similar crimes against humanity committed in contemporary situations all over the world where human rights are systematically and grossly violated. Needless to say, such treaty obligations are over and beyond the other obligations established by other relevant international laws including those articulated and codified in the Charter of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg dated Aug. 8, 1945, and confirmed by the U.N. General Assembly Resolutions No. 3 (1) dated Feb. 13, 1946, and No. 95 (1) dated Dec. 11, 1946; as well as those provided for in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of war victims; and by Protocols I and II to the said Geneva conventions which were formulated and adopted during the Geneva Diplomatic Conference in the years, between 1974 and 1977. The said two protocols have contributed to the development of a new body of international customary law in the field of humanitarian law and one can argue that their principles and guidelines are applicable as well to the states which have refused to ratify them till this date.

What is really novel about Canada's pioneering steps in the quest for the proper apprehension, prosecution and punishment of war criminals and the perpetrators of crimes against humanity and go beyond the call of established international duty is its determination to prosecute such criminals when found within its territory and jurisdiction for crimes committed elsewhere. This bold Canadian intention to establish new precedents in this domain may be construed as repugnant to the letter if not the spirit of the relevant binding treaties or applicable body of international law. For example, Article VI of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of genocide clearly states that persons charged with genocide shall be tried in the territory of the state where the crime was committed or before an international tribunal. Article VII thereof comes out loud and clear on the point of extradition and declares that genocide shall not be construed as political crimes for purposes of extradition and that the contracting parties must grant extradition in accordance with their respective laws and treaty obligations.

Yet one can submit strong arguments in support of states which decide to exercise jurisdiction in situations where the crime of genocide or its like has been committed outside their territories if one keeps in perspective at all times the spirit of the relevant conventions and pertinent international law governing such cases which is no other than apprehending, prosecuting and punishing the guilty and preventing the occurrence of such crimes. The jurisdic-

tional issue may or may not have been intended to be a cardinal issue in the relevant conventions and treaties. One can certainly see and appreciate the difficulties that could arise from this contentious point and how conflict of interest can arise between states because of it. One would think that the federal government of Canada would be well advised if they proceed cautiously on this point and attempt to reconcile the differences which could arise between it and other countries which were or are rendered more directly affected by the commission of war crimes or crimes against humanity including genocide by virtue of the fact that the crimes occurred on their soil and against their respective peoples. Which state stands in a more propitious condition to provide effective penalties for the crimes in question as well as provide effective and meaningful remedies to the relatives of the victims of such crimes should guide governments in their collective search for effective punishment and remedies in cases involving war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The statute of limitation and its possible application to the cases at bar need not pose legal problems for the federal government of Canada in its new effort to bring the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity to justice and accountability. The Convention on the non-applicability of statutory limitation to war crimes and crimes against humanity which was adopted in 1968 and entered into force in 1975 resolves this point for all times, as far as Canada is concerned, by virtue of its ratification of the said Convention right from the beginning. That Convention clearly states in its first article that statutory limitation shall not apply to war crimes and crimes against humanity as defined in the Charter of the International Tribunal at Nuremberg and the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The Convention on the non-applicability of statutory limitations also prescribes in its second article that representatives of state authority and private individuals who as principals or accomplices participate in or incite others to commit such crimes or who conspire to commit them irrespective of the degree of their completion are also punishable. Also brought within the orbit of this convention are the representative of state authority who even tolerate the commission of war crimes or crimes against humanity who are rendered punishable as well and for whom the statute of limitation is waived for all times and circumstances.

Thus, as we salute the federal government of Canada for its new declared policy and guidelines in the crusade against all war crimes and crimes against humanity no matter where and when they were or are committed, we must call on the rest of the international community to follow the example of Canada and endeavour to coordinate their efforts in this new and bold direction and pool their resources to put an end to all crimes against man no matter when or where or by whom they were committed.

Palestinian women under occupation organising against triple oppression

By Joost R. Hiltermann

A small union office: a desk, some chairs. A few men and women are drinking tea. "The Seamen's Union was established in 1958," the union secretary says. "We have 250 members, all of whom are employed in workshops here in town. 40 per cent of the members are women. They earn less than men: On average they take home 30 Jordanian dinars (about \$90) a month, while a man earns on average 80 dinars per month. This is because men produce more." A murmur rises from the women. A debate ensues between them and the union secretary. "It is because men have longer work experience," the unionist says, frowning. Then a young woman jumps up from her chair and says: "Now you see why we have set up women's committees!"

The woman's name is Samar Hawash, and she is a member of the administrative committee of the Nablus branch of the Palestinian Working Women's Committee (PWWC), one of the main organisations active on women's issues in the occupied territories. The original members of the Nablus committee were members of the Nablus Seamen's Union in 1977, but after 1980, when the PWWC was established on a national level, the women split off from the union to create an independent unit, although many of the committee members remain active in the union. The relationship between the union and the women activists is uneasy, since the union leadership is controlled by men who so far have displayed little understanding, or even willingness to try to understand, the particular problems women face both at home and at work.

The women activists' ambivalent attitude toward the male-governed unions is a major theme in the development of the Palestinian women's movement, for while unions are recognised as geared toward defending workers' interests, they have not so far proved to be the appropriate vehicles for working women to defend their particular interests.

There has been no single strategy by women for dealing with their role in unions. In Nablus, the PWWC set up a committee of activists from the Seamen's Union, while continuing to work with the union, but in Ramallah, activists of the Union of Women's Work Committees (UWWC) encouraged women to join unions. About 150, led by the activists, did in fact join the Construction and General Workers Union. Says Amal Wahdan, a UWWC founding member who has been instrumental in the growth of the Palestinian union movement: "We helped push women into the unions. We set up a working women's committee inside the Ramallah Institutions Union, that is, we imposed it on them, but they accepted it because they had no access to working women."

At the Nablus branch of the PWWC, the sewing class has just ended. Samar Hawash elaborates on the theme broached at the union office in the morning:

"Often when we visit sewing workshops, owners will tell us that women produce less than men, and they usually cite biological reasons. It is ridiculous, because in the villages women are working in the fields while men sit unemployed in the village coffee house. The union secretary's views are, in fact, reactionary. Many women have been at work for only a short time. Owners are always complaining that the women are not producing enough, but the reason why they employ women is because their labour is cheaper — and then never mind if they produce less! Women get lower wages because they are seen as inferior. At home they are not allowed to take decisions. They go to work because they have to, not because they have ideas about freedom or something like that. Women must gain self-confidence and consciousness to fight for their rights in the workplace. They have to demand their rights from the owners. Most of the women here do not even know how much they are producing, what wages they are entitled to, and so forth. The role of our committee is to encourage women, and to tell them that they are not only working for money but also for themselves!"

The establishment of the UWWC in 1978 meant the beginning of a new stage in the struggle of Palestinian women for their individual and collective rights. During the next few years three more committees followed, reflecting in part the schisms in the Palestinian national movement: the Palestinian Women's Committees (PWC), the Women's Committees for Social Work (WCSW), and the PWWC. These committees have set themselves the task to mobilise women around issues of family, work and national rights. During the 1986 UWWC conference delegates called for a greater effort to organise housewives and women wage workers, since they constitute the majority of women in the occupied territories and "face triple oppression: as workers, as women, and as Palestinians." UWWC members pledged to place greater emphasis on the struggle to combat illiteracy, not just in language, but also socially and politically, in other words to educate women about their social and political rights.

In spite of the Israeli military occupation, the national issue is not necessarily at the top of the women's agenda. Obstacles to recruitment arise at a very basic social level: Many young women are not allowed to leave the immediate vicinity of their homes, let alone visit a committee or union office. In the village of Abu Dis near Jerusalem, for example, there is an active union and there are a number of sewing workshops predominantly employing women. Yet the union's efforts to recruit these women have been frustrated. Says Amal Wahdan who was active in Abu Dis in the early 1980s, and who is currently under house arrest in Al Bira: "We had a committee of working women, but because of

traditional obstacles, many women could not come to the union. But they would show up for union celebrations to which the whole village is invited... All of these women working in the textile shops [subcontracting for Israeli companies, some even producing yarmulkes for tourists] are unmarried. As soon as they get married they quit their job. Many women take jobs because they need to, but also because they have nothing else to do, and they do not want to stay inside the house. They get paid less than men because — this is the employers' argument — of the type of work they do, for example packing at the Cigarette Company in Abu Dis... At the TAKO tissue paper factory in Ramallah, we tried to attract women by inviting them to our women's committee's office, not to the union."

A PWC organiser in the Hebron area argued along similar lines. "We place the women's question before the national question. We focus all our activities on bringing the women out of their homes to make them more self-confident and independent. Once they believe in themselves, they will know that they can become leaders in any field they choose, including the military field. So if a woman first gains her own rights by breaking down her external barriers, then in the house, and then in society at large, then after that she will also be able to deal with the occupation. A woman cannot fight the occupation if she is not even convinced that she has rights, for example the right to leave her house, for whatever reason."

During the UWWC conference, delegates affirmed their commitment to a "united, revolutionary and realistic" approach in the Palestinian movement under the leadership of the PLO. Delegates also denounced Israel's "iron fist" policy, especially the restrictions imposed on women activists and UWWC members. UWWC Secretary-General Sahira Kamal has been under town arrest in Jerusalem intermittently since 1980. In addition, five members of the UWWC executive committee have been forbidden to leave the country. Six UWWC members were prevented from attending the Nairobi women's conference in July 1985.

Until now, the women's committees in the West Bank have been spared the fate of other organisations under Israeli occupation, like break-ins and closures. The fact that most women organisers have been immune so far from the repressive Israeli policies from which many men have suffered, including administrative detention and deportation, can be attributed in part to a belief among Israeli leaders that the women's groups do not yet command the streets in the occupied territories, and in part also to the strong support that the Palestinian women's groups enjoy abroad. Activists believe that as long as the inter-

national women's movement continues to express its solidarity with the struggle of the women in the West Bank and Gaza — as it did in Nairobi in 1985 — and as long as the Palestinian women's organisations continue to recruit women on the basis of women's issues rather than purely national ones, the political cost of crackdown on the activists may be too high for the Israeli authorities.

Organising women who work across the Green Line in Israel has proved even more difficult. According to Wahdan: "Some of our members are employed in Israel, but they are older women who work as cleaners in Hadassah hospital in west Jerusalem. So far the union has not been able to do anything for women who work across the Green Line. They themselves do not want it. They are afraid that they may lose their job if they are active."

In the back room of a house in Al Far'a refugee camp near Nablus, there is a branch of the Nablus UWWC. Some 15 young women, whose families originally hailed from Haifa and Jaffa, are learning to sew. Like many others in the camp, they have not finished high school, nor are they likely to: Books, notebooks, pencils and school uniforms are very expensive, and boys get priority treatment in a family. Many have therefore joined the labour force. A great number work in Nablus, some 20 kilometres away, in sewing workshops or as secretaries or teachers. Others travel daily across the Green Line to find work in Israeli factories or agriculture. Their earnings are minimal: Not much more than one or one-and-a-half dinars (\$3-4) per day, which is hardly enough to buy bread for the family. The Israeli authorities so far have not harassed the committee, which is the only women's committee in Al Far'a camp. But the occupation makes itself felt in other ways, the women assert: By reducing the chances they might have in developing themselves in society.

A committee activist explains that the political consciousness of the women in this camp is particularly high. They gained it, she argues, by leaving their homes for short periods (the sewing class meets twice weekly for a few hours), by working together and talking about the situation that impinges on them. "Their liberation comes in stages, not overnight. It is important to get them out of the house first, then to get them together in one place where they work, then to discuss things with them — both the occupation and the traditional structures that keep them confined in the camp. The struggles for liberation from male oppression and national oppression are intertwined. They are one and the same struggle, because the occupation reinforces the structure of male oppression. By raising the consciousness of women, they will be able to join men in the struggle for national liberation while at the same time liberating themselves from male oppression in the process!" — Middle East International, London.

Holland — haven for the oppressed — moves to curb influx of political asylum-seekers

By Roland de Ligny
The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — This historic haven nation for the oppressed will cool its traditional warm welcome in hopes of fending off a flood of refugees seeking political asylum.

Following a European-wide trend, Dutch Premier Ruud Lubbers announced Friday that stipends for asylum-seekers would be drastically cut, and that the decision-making process on asylum requests would be speeded up.

"We think that there is a direct link between the level of financial support and the size of the refugee influx," Lubbers told reporters.

The living allowance for those awaiting a decision on asylum will be cut by more than half to 450 guilders (\$225) a month. Lubbers said the government will still provide food and lodging.

He said the staff that evaluates asylum request will be more than doubled. A decision can now take the government up to five years. "It is hoped that the first sifting, between those whose fears for persecution are genuine and those who come for economic reasons, will be completed in nine weeks," Lubbers said.

The new measures are expected to become effective next month, after a parliamentary debate in early April.

Lubbers stressed that what he called "bona fide" asylum-seekers would only benefit from the new system.

Their acceptance as political refugees will come around much quicker than now," Lubbers said at his weekly news conference here.

"But we hope to stem the flow of economically motivated asylum-seekers, for the jungle drums will spread the word quickly," the premier said.

The Dutch tradition of asylum dates back to the 16th century, when thousands of Portuguese Jews fled the inquisition to Amsterdam.

They were followed by French Huguenots in the 17th century, Westphalians seeking prosperity in the 19th, and refugees from a variety of nations in modern times.

Until 1984, about 400 to 500 people sought asylum in The Netherlands a year.

But that year, thousands of Sri Lankan Tamils arrived, seeking asylum from what they said was persecution by the Sinhalese majority in their island nation. "We have indications that not all of those coming to The Netherlands are bona fide asylum-seekers," Lubbers said last week.

Like some other Western European governments, the Dutch claim many modern-day refugees flee economic hardship, not political persecution.

In response to its 1984 influx, the Dutch government doubled from 250 to 500 its annual quota

of resettlement invitations to refugees. Those candidates are selected by the U.N. The Dutch government decides all other cases, including unwanted arrivals like the Tamils.

Last December, the number of asylum-seekers jumped to about 1,000. In January it reached 1,100 then 1,300 in February, and 1,500 in the first three weeks of March. The most significant increase was in nationals from Ghana, Zaire, and India.

Reflecting another European-wide problem, Lubbers said last week that the 13,000 refugees awaiting decisions on their asylum requests are a major drain on public resources for this nation of 14.6 million.

They currently get a monthly allowance of 950 guilders (\$475) plus room and board until their request is decided, justice ministry spokesman Victor Holtus said.

The number of asylum requests rejected has risen sharply here, with 70.9 per cent refused last year, compared to 57.8 in 1984, according to ministry figures.

After the Tamil influx, the government sent a special emissary to Sri Lanka last year. The emissary said Tamils could live safely in parts of Sri Lanka, despite its sectarian conflict.

The Dutch then expelled many Tamils and the number of arrivals declined sharply.

Western European nations are attracting tens of thousands of asylum-seekers yearly, many from former colonial possessions.

Because of its own Tamil influx, Britain began requiring visas in late 1985 for Sri Lankan nationals, despite their Commonwealth status, which had previously entitled them to visa-free entry.

The British restrictions checked the Tamil request rate, which had soared to 1,200 in the month of May 1985.

Britain also began requiring visas in 1986 for nationals of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Ghana, also Commonwealth nations.

Last year Spain began deporting all undocumented aliens to foil a ploy in which asylum-seekers arrive without papers to slow the expulsion procedure.

A total of 7,652 people sought political asylum there in 1985, mostly Cubans, Argentinians and Iranians.

A spokesman for the French Office for the protection of Refugees and Stateless People (OFPRA), told the Associated Press that France has taken no measures aimed specifically at reducing the refugee tide. But France responded to its 1985-86 spate of bombing attacks by wholesale expulsions of illegal aliens.

Despite its own tradition of political asylum, the number of asylum requests France has granted fell from 86 per cent in 1980 to 44 per cent in 1985. Last year, only 10,645 of 26,290 requests were granted.



"Platoon" — the film and its actor are the talks of Hollywood

Dafoe of 'Platoon' breaks the mould

By Aly Sujo
Reuters

NEW YORK — Willem Dafoe came to his highly praised performance as an American fighting man in the Vietnam war film "Platoon" via screen portrayals of a counterfeiter, a drifter and similar roles.

Dafoe has been nominated for an Oscar as best supporting actor for his portrayal of Elias, the sergeant in the film.

The raspy-voiced high-cheeked 32-year-old arrived in New York City in 1977 to look for work in the theatre.

Traditional off-broadway fare seemed insubstantial, he recalled in an interview with Reuters, but the visionary Wooster Group (named after a street in the New York neighbourhood of Soho that artists frequent) caught his attention. So did its director, Elizabeth Lecompte, with whom he now lives and works.

In the 1980s, the Wooster Group evolved into the city's leading avant-garde troupe, and a number of its artists headed for the cultural mainstream.

Dafoe's first film roles as a counterfeiter ("To Live and Die in L.A.") a drifter ("Roadhouse"), and a villainous biker ("Streets of Fire") led to a host of similar roles.

"It got to the point where I'd receive a script and I could look at the title and turn to page 4 and know just what was on it: 'shoot such-and-such in the face. Page 12: throw little girl down the

stairs, and so on," he said.

In "Platoon", Dafoe broke the mould.

The film, with its conflict between Dafoe's "Good" sergeant and his murderous rival (played by Tom Berenger), is brimming with Christian imagery, including Elias's climatic martyrdom.

Yet the actor is sceptical of the film's much-vaunted naturalism, and the impact it is said to have had.

"When the critics implied that 'Platoon' was accurate in its detail and not hoked up too much, a weird kind of moral obligation was created," he said.

"People who had not been in Vietnam wanted to see (the film). And when they did, they felt as if they'd been there."

"And of course I'm cynical enough to say 'No, baby, you weren't,'" he added. "It's only a movie, a flickering light on the screen."

Wisconsin born and bred, Dafoe's vaguely-recalled Flemish ancestry is punctuated by a sole military footnote: The Dafoes came to the United States with Hessian mercenaries to fight against the colonialists in the revolutionary war. They deserted.

Dafoe laughed, "I grew up with John Wayne movies and I had most of those macho images to draw from. They're fairly potent. So somewhere in the training and shooting for 'Platoon' I came up against that mythology, and I drew from it."

Yet he doesn't wholly dismiss the "Platoon" phenomenon.

"Some say that it simply homogenises experience, that it's another media wash ... but something as charged as this film crashes right through our unresolved feeling."

Oliver Stone's film, considered a favourite to win this year's best picture Oscar, was rejected by every major Hollywood studio over the last seven years. Yet in its first 10 weeks, it grossed over \$66 million drawing on a long-submerged public curiosity about the war's "reality."

"Platoon is one of a number of Vietnam epics scheduled for release this year. Among them are 'Hamburger Hill' directed by Britain's John Irvin, 'Good Morning Vietnam' with Robin Williams, and Stanley Kubrick's 'Full-Metal Jacket', said to be a surrealistic look at Vietnam, seven years in the making.

And Dafoe himself is expected to contract with 20th Century Fox for the lead role in "Saigon," a detective mystery set in Vietnam during the 1960s, his management said.

Meanwhile, Dafoe said, he continues to work in alternative theatre, and is philosophical about his current success.

He does not see the popularity of "Platoon" — often hailed as the antidote to "Rambo" — as politically significant.

"You have to remember that this is a popular success," he says. "Hollywood is a business. And if the theatre-going audience is running one way, Hollywood's going to run to catch it."

(See related story page 12)

Experts pursue battle against rabies

By Andy Crump

LONDON, England — Rabies, in its full form, is one of the few diseases for which there is still no cure. It is also a perfect example of the double standards and the differences in attitude and deployment of resources that exist between the industrialised and developing worlds.

Fresh attention is being focused on rabies at present, partly because trials of a new live vaccine are being promoted and partly because a genetically-engineered vaccine has been tried in the field without proper clearance.

Few countries in the world are totally free from rabies, though Britain is one. The disease is endemic in about 100 countries and territories. It is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected animals. In about 90 countries, rabies persists in the most dangerous reservoir host: dogs. Dog rabies, transmitted through dog bites, accounts for 98 per cent of all human deaths from the disease.

According to a report from the World Health Organisation (WHO), each year there are over five and a half million post-exposure treatments for humans who have been bitten by potentially rabid animals. But Dr. Landeg of the United Kingdom's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food believes there is a considerable under-reporting of cases.

If treated early, the disease can be prevented. But the treatment and the vaccine needed for it cost money. Poorer nations are unable to provide the necessary health care and this is reflected in the WHO mortality figures. Mortality rates, expressed as deaths per thousand animal cases, are: Africa 82.7, Asia 35.8, Latin America 10.7, North America just 0.5 and Europe 0.3.

The WHO has recommended various methods for controlling rabies, the most effective of which is prophylactic vaccination. In most developing countries, notably in large towns, there is a large and growing population of stray dogs, which form the most dangerous source of infection.

Efforts to curtail these dogs have slowed down or even halted, due to lack of funds.

However, some countries have now diverted their efforts and resources into the expensive process of vaccinating people who have been bitten by rabid animals. Each year, out of every million inhabitants in a given country, at least 2,000 receive anti-rabies injections. The cost of medical services is enormous and many nations do not have enough vaccine or the facilities to treat all those who have been bitten.

The WHO has declared that vaccinating bitten people is neither the best nor the most economical way to tackle the problem, and recommends reducing the population of stray dogs as the simplest way of stopping transmission of the disease.

In Europe, dogs have been strictly controlled for years, so dog rabies has been virtually eliminated. Pets can be safely vaccinated by injection, and can be monitored regularly. Consequently, foxes have become the main vectors of the disease in Europe. Despite the fact that 1.25 million foxes are killed each year, there were over 19,000 cases of human rabies in 1985.

However, a new oral vaccine has been produced which has proved effective with foxes. This means that wild foxes in Europe could in principle be inoculated by leaving doctored food in their habitat. Tests of the new vaccine have been carried out in Switzerland, West Germany and Canada, so far with success.

The vaccine uses a live, attenuated form of the rabies virus. As the virus is comparatively unstable, some concern has been voiced that the vaccine could cause rabies to occur in non-target animals that eat the food left for the foxes.

In Latin America, ministers of agriculture have agreed to try to bring rabies under control by 1990, but it is a daunting challenge. Of the 375 million people at risk in Latin America, well over 200,000 are bitten each year by rabid dogs alone.

Vampire bats also transmit the

disease in some parts of the continent, notably Brazil. Cattle are particularly susceptible. Bovine rabies takes an enormous toll in Latin America and is estimated to cost the major cattle-raising nations in excess of \$50 million a year.

Field trials of a recombinant bovine rabies vaccine were carried out in Argentina in 1986, but led to a fierce row in government and scientific circles. The Pan-American Health Organisation, a U.N. agency, in collaboration with the U.S.-based Wistar Institute, tested a vaccine developed in New Zealand, but apparently permission was not sought from the Argentine authorities.

The new vaccine used the vaccinia virus, which forms the basis for the vaccine successfully used against smallpox. By use of genetic engineering, part of the rabies virus was incorporated into the vaccinia virus. Animals inoculated with this hybrid in laboratory conditions produced antibodies which combatted the rabies virus.

The field trials started in July last year, but were terminated a few weeks later, following complaints from a scientific commission which visited the experimental site. They discovered that vaccinated cows were being kept in the same field as unvaccinated animals.

Moreover, no warning signs were posted, and both wild and domestic animals could easily come into contact with the inoculated cows. Milk from the treated cows was being drunk by the local population, and some was being sent to a local dairy for processing into milk powder and confectionery.

After the cessation of the field trials, PAHO was prevented from gaining access to blood or tissue samples from the treated animals, which were later slaughtered. Officials at PAHO have already admitted that the project should have been carried out in a different manner. Such setbacks do nothing to bring the day when rabies will cease to be a problem nearer — Earthscan feature.

Randa Habib's Corner

Spare the weathermen

I THINK we are all being unfair with the people of the Meteorology Department. What is the big deal if they announce a sunny Friday and good visibility and encourage vacationers to go down to the Ghor when, in fact, it rains on that day with very bad visibility. Let be without mistake cast the first stone. After all, when our weatherman says it will snow it does snow, doesn't it? though one week later? But the important thing is that it does eventually snow.

I think despite all the criticism and the jokes that go around and the obvious scepticism with which everybody takes the weather bulletin, we should support our Meteorology Department. God knows they are doing their best. Take for example last Sunday's accurate forecast — a real cocktail of everything. The weatherman said we would be affected by a cold depression that will be followed by a rise in temperature and in some areas the weather will be sunny "at times" and cloudy "at others". Isn't that great? So, when on Sunday morning we had a beautiful sun, the weatherman was right, as he had told us it would be "sunny at times". As for "scattered rains," well, he had told us it would be in "some areas." In other words, how do we know that it did not rain in other areas, other cities, or even other countries?

As for clouds, if one looked well, he is bound to find some, somewhere in the sky. I tell you, these guys know what they are doing. At least we have to give them credit for playing it safe. Now, stop talking of cold winds being smuggled outside the country, or stopped at the borders, and all other nasty jokes such as the one about the bedouins and their weather forecasting methods. Be kind to our Meteorology Department. After all, if anything, they have taught us never to take things at face value.

Court ruling to sterilise retarded girl stirs row

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

LONDON — A British court decision ordering the sterilisation of a 17-year-old girl with a mental age of five has set off an emotional debate — with some critics saying it evoked echoes of compulsory sterilisation under the Nazis.

But couples with mentally handicapped children have come forward to put the case in favour of the operation.

The appeal court, considering an application from the Sunderland local council in north east England, ruled that the girl, identified only as "Jeanette", should be sterilised to protect her from pregnancy and child bearing.

The girl is in the care of the council and a ward of the court, but her parents also supported the operation because she was "showing signs of sexual awareness and sexual drive."

Although sterilisation involved taking away a basic human right, loss of that right would mean nothing to the girl and the prospect of her becoming pregnant was "frightening," the court said.

The operation has been delayed until the case can be considered by Britain's highest court, the House of Lords. But the affair has already led to charges from legal experts and groups dealing with the mentally handicapped that it was inhuman and set a dangerous precedent.

"This girl has been treated in an animal-like way and, not to put too fine a point on it, she will be spayed like a bitch," said Sir Brian Rix, secretary-general of Mencap, a charity for the mentally handicapped.

As columnist Neal Ascherson wrote in The Observer newspaper, the case provoked an unusually intense response because it reawakened disturbing memories of the Nazi era, when "compulsory sterilisation in Hitler's Germany turned out to be the first step on the path to Auschwitz."

Hundreds of thousands of physically and mentally handicapped and mentally ill people were sterilised in Hitler's Germany as part of his drive to achieve the racial purity of the German nation.

Michael Freeman, professor of

English law at London University, in a radio interview described the court decision as "almost Nazi," and added:

"It constitutes a highly dangerous precedent opening up a Pandora's box of possibilities. We just don't know where we will be going next. Who knows that we will not be introducing sterilisation for social control purposes?"

Rix also argued that the decision had delivered a severe jolt to the modern concept that the mentally handicapped should live and receive care in the community rather than being shut away in institutions.

"Is the price of their involvement in the community and with each other to be sterilisation?" he said. "It could be the norm. A neat, tidy package offering no risks or efforts to all concerned."

But the argument has not gone all one way.

Jill Jukes, mother of a 19-year-old girl with a mental age of six who is awaiting the operation, told The Guardian newspaper the trend towards caring for the mentally handicapped in the community had created new risks and dangers.

"You worry about them living in ordinary houses with supervisors just popping in and out ... Abortion is a million times worse for a mentally handicapped girl. Sterilisation is a one-off thing that's over and done with after a couple of days of discomfort," she said.

"Angela's got to be looked after," she said of her daughter.

"If she ever goes out into the community, at least you know there's one major problem she won't have."

According to Mencap, about 20 operations were awaiting the outcome of the current case. Doctors have been reluctant to operate on mentally handicapped people because of the possible legal consequences, according to the Medical Defence Union, an organisation which provides doctors with legal advice.

In its ruling, the appeal court said all future sterilisation operations of minors would require the permission of the courts. Girls over the age of 18 have to consent to the procedure themselves. Jeanette herself turns 18 in May.

Carter: Arafat could conditionally recognise Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians or even so that he can designate someone to represent him as a spokesman," Mr. Carter said.

Distrust between the Palestinians and the Israelis, Mr. Carter said, was "a matter that can only be overcome in my judgment by a comprehensive approach which is now possible... through an international peace conference."

He said Syria and Jordan would now be willing to negotiate under the auspices of such a conference, a change which he called "a very significant move forward in the last year or so."

Mr. Carter also said his meetings with Hafez Al Assad convinced him the Syrian president did not know where the eight American hostages in Lebanon were currently being held or by whom; but that Mr. Assad would do what he could to obtain their release.

"I think Assad sees for his own selfish benefit any progress that he can make in identifying, locating and helping to extract American hostages would be a great feather in his hat," Mr. Carter

said.

"I'm sure he is trying to send a signal of peace and humanitarianism to the rest of the world... when he does locate any of them (the hostages) he will help to extract them."

Earlier, Mr. Carter criticised Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and its attitude towards the PLO.

At a Tel Aviv University meeting with academics and Israeli newspaper editors, Mr. Carter also gave an optimistic assessment of Syrian readiness to negotiate peace with Israel through an international conference, participants said.

The foreign press was excluded from the closed-door session with Mr. Carter.

Professor Itamar Rabinovitch of the Dayan Centre for Middle East Studies, who hosted the meeting, said Mr. Carter was "Critical of Israeli policies to an extent beyond what most of us are, and more sanguine about Arab attitudes than a lot of us are."

He said the former president's criticism centred on "Israeli policy in the West Bank and Gaza



Jimmy Carter

Strip and Israeli attitudes towards the PLO." He declined to give details.

Asked whether Mr. Carter had urged Israel to negotiate with the PLO, Prof. Rabinovitch said: "Not directly and explicitly but I think it's implicit in his position."

Commenting on the situation in the occupied territories, Mr. Carter said he believed peace negotiations were the only way to end the tensions in Hebron, other parts of the West Bank and the occupied Gaza Strip.

By Ajay Sen
Reuters

NEW DELHI — He is stern, rarely smiles, and in his simple cotton attire he looks more like a humble village school teacher than a revolutionary.

Yet Jyoti Basu, the Marxist chief minister of India's West Bengal State, has again demonstrated he is a political force to be reckoned with.

On March 25 he led his Communist Party of India (CPI-M) to victory in state assembly elections, ensuring he stays in the office which he first assumed in 1977.

Even Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whose Congress Party was again rejected by West Bengal's 35 million voters, has words of praise for Basu.

Friend and foe alike admire the energy and pragmatism of the 73-year-old Marxist leader who will this week become the first non-Congress chief minister to assume office for a third successive five-year term.

Basu has endeared himself to millions of landless peasants by giving them tenancy rights, while the welcome he has extended to multinational corporations and large private companies is helping

to nurse his impoverished state back to economic health.

"What impresses me is Basu's strong pragmatism," his concern for the poor and the image of a typical, simple Bengali bhadrolak (gentleman) who is part of the Bengali middle-class culture," said a professor at Jadavpur University, near Calcutta.

Last year, Calcutta's Telegraph newspaper voted him man of the year following an opinion poll held among 10,000 readers.

Even Gandhi, his arch-rival, acknowledged Basu's appeal at an election rally in Calcutta last week, telling voters: "Basu is a very good man, a very efficient administrator, but it's his cabinet colleagues who let him down."

The keenly contested poll was at heart a popularity test between Gandhi and the man Bengali voters affectionately call "Elder brother."

Although a Marxist, Basu confirmed his faith in parliamentary democracy in the 1970s by campaigning hard against Maoist militants called Naxalites, finally ousting them from state politics.

His pragmatism has been displayed in an open invitation to multinational and big private companies to set up industries in West Bengal, one of India's

poorest states.

"Rapid industrialisation can alone stamp out rampant poverty and unemployment," he said.

Opening a foreign-owned fertiliser plant near Calcutta earlier this year, Basu said: "I, being a Communist, am being very frank: It will be foolish not to support capitalist multinationals if they work within the rules of the country's mixed economy."

"I don't want my state to become an industrial desert," he said.

A Calcutta businessman said he favoured the Marxists because their labour unions worked hard to make a success of a labour pact once it had been signed.

The businessman said of Basu: "He is loved by the poor, he is needed by the rich."

Basu has never disguised his interest in a wider role in national politics.

"We can't bring about Socialism or any fundamental change in the country unless we can be in power at the centre," he said.

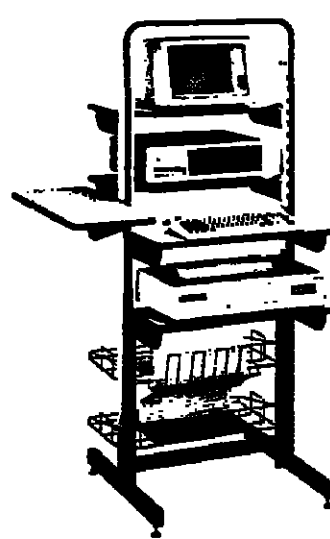
For the CPI-M this still appears a distant dream, although this week's elections brought it a step closer when they added Kerala to the south to West Bengal and Tripura in the north-east, giving them control of three of India's 24 states for the first time.

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Arab Bank Ltd.

Dear Shareholders,

I note with great pleasure that at the end of August 1986, I had completed fifty years of continuous service with the Arab Bank, and I thank God who gave me the strength and power to carry out my duties during that long period. As you know, the main credit goes to the Founder, the late Abdulhameed Shoman, whose ceaseless efforts and wide guidance enabled us to overcome the numerous difficulties encountered and to build up the worldwide reputation and the strong position which the Bank now enjoys. This institution started as a mere dream in his mind and was brought to reality through his determination and dedication before his death in 1974. Although happy with the institution he had established, he died with sadness in his heart since his country, Palestine, especially Holy Jerusalem was under enemy occupation.

It is our duty to carry on hard work, in his footsteps, and expand the activities of the institution in every Arab country which allows us to do so, and in other countries wherever feasible. It is gratifying that the Arab Bank is now the widest-spread Arab institution in the world, with branches and subsidiaries throughout the five continents.

As you will note in the Directors Report, 1986 witnessed a further expansion of your institution in the Far East, Western Europe and the Middle East.

The Arab Bank Group balance sheet shows that Total Assets have increased by 7.2% reaching US\$ 12.7 billion at the end of 1986.

The Total Assets of Arab Bank Limited reached more than JD 3,187 million and Deposits over JD 2,977 million; this is in spite of the fact that around 70% of Deposits are denominated in US\$, and the dollar decreased in value against the JD and the main currencies. Net Profit for appropriation and distribution amounted to JD 23.5 million, of which JD 15.8 million was allocated to the Reserves as detailed in the Profit and Loss Account. The Board of Directors has recommended the distribution of JD 7.7 million as dividends at the rate of JD 3.5 per share (35% of the share nominal value). These results are indeed quite satisfactory when we take into consideration the adverse economic situation in our region, the decrease in the dollar value and the drop of interest rates. The Iran-Iraq war, which entered its seventh year, also had an extensive impact, causing substantial losses in wealth and profits in the two countries. Austerity policies were followed by the governments of the countries in the region and new debts were accumulated. The banking sector was also adversely affected as reflected in its results and the growing volume of bad debts, which forced the central banks and monetary agencies to extend aid to some banks and intensify supervisory measures and restrictions, especially regarding facilities to customers.

The world economy continued to face many difficulties. Although the industrial countries were able to control inflation which had dominated the monetary system for fifteen years, they still suffer from high unemployment and imbalances in their foreign accounts, causing tension and instability. Furthermore, their economic growth was moderate and not sufficient to boost the economy of the Third World.

The economies of most developing countries have worsened with prices of their raw materials decreasing to the lowest level since the 2nd World War, and with their indebtedness increasing and rendering them unable to compete in the international markets and to develop their economies. Without sufficient aid from the developed nations, the position of the developing countries will continue to worsen and will reflect badly on the international trade and economy. Now that the industrial countries have saved substantial amounts, exceeding US\$ 100 billion, from the large decrease in oil prices, they are able more than before to extend help and aid to the needy countries of the Third World so that these countries may solve their problems, thus advancing world stability as a whole.

Besides the economic and political problems in the world, pollution of the environment has become a growing threat to life on our planet. Man, animals and plants have become subjected to the hazards of radiations from nuclear generators, to the harmful products of chemical industries, the nitrates of fertilizers intensively used in agriculture which pollute river and subterranean waters, the acid rain which destroys forests, and the smoke of vehicles and factories in and near large cities. All these pollute the environment and must be confronted through regional global cooperation.

The Arab world has unfortunately shown neither sufficient cooperation nor practical economic integration. It should exploit in a more efficient way its vast potentialities of manpower, material resources and strategic position, and facilitate movement of capital and labour force throughout the Arab countries to enhance development. Some Asian countries like China and India which a few years ago were importers of foodstuff have now become food exporters as a result of encouragement to agriculture and farmers, giving them incentives and finding new markets for their products. By contrast, importation of food by the Arab world is on the increase in spite of its immense agricultural potentialities.

We continue to repeat these points in our Annual Reports, because we feel that the situation is becoming continuously worse. We hope that Arab leaders and nations will stand up together in the face of the imminent dangers in order to improve their situation and remove their rights and the occupied territories.

Abdulhameed Shoman
Chairman, Board of Directors

Balance Sheet as of 31 December 1986

Assets				Liabilities			
	1986 US\$	1986 JD	1985 JD		1986 JD	1985 JD	
Cash in hand and at banks	5,784,864,843	1,774,211	1,655,982,228	Deposits & other accounts	2,977,195,691	2,902,815,129	
Items in transit	—	—	—	Acceptances	16,781,988	20,626,412	
Bonds (government & other)	547,813,475	891,380,416	76,633,978	Items in Transit	21,780,790	—	
Investments (incl. subsidiaries)	1,461,230	33,600,857	21,927,100	Capital authorities (initially paid 100% in pounds)	22,000,000	22,000,000	
Bills discounted	4,992,946	49,404,748	58,353,988	Statutory reserves	22,000,000	22,000,000	
Loans	2,592,967,450	891,380,416	858,921,351	General reserve	203,630,000	70,000,000	
Bank premises (less depreciation)	31,536,838	10,841,127	10,965,857	Voluntary reserve	93,088,000	32,000,000	
Furniture & equipment (less depreciation)	17,298,057	5,946,393	5,695,035	Undivided profit	53,525,600	17,100,000	
Customers' liability on acceptances	48,818,803	16,781,988	20,626,412	Net profit (for distribution)	22,442,062	7,714,700	
Other Assets	57,569,343	19,790,080	19,475,398	Total liabilities	9,273,523,048	3,187,873,169	
Total Assets	9,273,523,048	3,187,873,169	3,079,755,491				
Customers' liability on guarantees and credits (per contra)	1,699,238,784	584,131,586	604,820,477	Guarantees and credits (per contra)	1,699,238,784	584,131,586	
Balance Sheet Total	10,972,761,832	3,772,004,755	3,684,575,968	Balance Sheet Total	10,972,761,832	3,772,004,755	

Profit and Loss Account for the year 1986

Operation Income	1986 JD	1985 JD
Interest received	303,255,202	351,295,280
Less: Interest paid	271,547,710	317,796,904
Net Interest	31,707,492	33,498,376
Commissions	11,080,358	10,375,192
Income from exchange	8,169,535	6,076,779
Income from securities	10,835,713	13,406,001
Other Income	5,250,584	2,935,140
Total Income	66,843,682	66,291,488
Operation Expenses & Provisions		
Salaries and fringe benefits	19,801,162	20,312,448
Depreciation	1,431,132	1,956,677
Taxes	2,720,384	3,901,122
Other expenses	19,376,304	15,107,291
Total Expenses	43,328,982	41,277,538
Net profit for appropriation	23,514,700	25,013,950
Undivided profit	17,100,000	15,100,000
Total	40,614,700	40,113,950
Deduct:		
Transfer to statutory reserve	—	2,300,000
Transfer to general reserve	10,000,000	8,000,000
Transfer to voluntary reserve	4,600,000	5,000,000
Dividends	7,700,000	7,700,000
Director's remuneration	14,700	13,950
Balance of undivided profit	18,400,000	17,100,000

Khalid A.H. Shoman
Deputy Chairman

Abdulhameed A.H. Shoman
Chairman

Auditor's Report

To the Shareholders of Arab Bank Limited

We have examined the balance sheet of the Arab Bank Limited (a Jordanian public shareholding company) as of 31 December 1986 and 1985 and the related statement of profit and loss and statement of changes in financial position for the years then ended. We have obtained the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.

Our examination was made in accordance with generally

accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records kept at the bank's head office and branches and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances and to the extent allowed by the laws in force in the countries where the bank is operating.

The bank maintains proper books and records and the accompanying financial statements are in agreement therewith.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial

position of Arab Bank Ltd. as of 31 December 1986 and 1985 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the years then ended, in conformity with the law and with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year. We recommend that the General Assembly approve these financial statements and adopt the proposal of the Board of Directors to declare a dividend of JD 3.500 per share.

Saba & Co.

Amman, Jordan, 17 January 1987.

Board of Directors' 57 th Annual Report

For the year ended 31 December 1986, submitted to the General Assembly of Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting held at the Bank's Head Office Building, Shmeisani, Amman, at 10.00 a.m. Friday, 27 Marh 1987.

Dear Shareholders,

While most industrial countries have achieved some stability and moderate rates of growth without inflation, the growth rate of the heavily indebted countries of the Third World has receded to almost half that of the previous year. On the whole, most countries in the world continued to face difficulties at different levels as shown in the following résumé.

The Jordan Economy

Jordan continued to adapt its economy to the stagnation which started in the area in the early eighties. Arab economic aid to Jordan during the nine months of 1986 dropped to JD 135 million from JD 190 million in the same period of 1985. Remittances from the Jordanian expatriates have stabilized, and amounted to JD 217 million in the first half of 1986, slightly above the JD 196 million during the same period in the previous year. In 1986 more workers were repatriated, as they have become redundant in the oil countries, and unemployment in Jordan went up to about 8%, and is expected to increase in the coming few years creating major economic and social problems. To be able to cope with this situation and to partly compensate for the loss of foreign exchange earnings the Jordanian Government concentrated on increasing the volume of Jordanian exports by exempting them from income tax, raising custom dues on imported goods of the types that are produced locally and stopping importation of luxury goods or increasing the dues on them. To encourage investment, it has treated Arab investment capital as Jordanian, made changes in the monetary and fiscal policies so as to encourage the private sector to take the initiative and play a greater role in the development of the economy, especially in agriculture where the cultivated areas have increased and the production per dunum has improved as a result of modern methods being introduced. The Government has also secured sufficient liquidity and preserved a stable rate of exchange for the Jordan dinar against other currencies in the local and Arab money markets.

In order to face the probable continuity of the economic slowdown in the first year (1986) and the following years of the five-year plan (1986-1990), a policy of adjustment and adaptation to the economic developments in the area was followed by the Government. Economic activities are closely interconnected throughout the area, especially the Jordanian market which is closely related to the neighbouring Arab markets both in trade and labour. The adaptation policy will continue until the time when the economic slowdown is over and growth is resumed at the previous normal rates.

G.N.P. totalled JD 1,581 million at market price in 1985, representing an increase of 6.1% over 1984. The trade balance registered a deficit of JD 454 million during the first three quarters of 1986 as compared with JD 520 million in the same period of 1985. Exports of potash, cement, phosphates

and fertilizers registered a decrease. The level of prices kept stable and the inflation rate of about 3% in 1985 dropped to about 1.2%, the lowest since the end of the sixties.

In spite of stagnation and other adverse conditions, the Jordanian economy was run with good management together with adequate monetary, fiscal and tax policies which enabled Jordan to enjoy a good financial reputation in the money markets and to borrow without difficulties from those markets.

Arab Economy

For the economy of the other Arab countries, 1986 was also one of the most difficult years of the decade to date. It has witnessed severe economic and social crises accompanied by political unrest and security problems, which must be confronted with practical measures on the regional and national levels.

The major factor causing the economic crisis is the sharp drop of the oil prices from an official rate of US\$ 34 a barrel in 1982 to US\$ 28 in 1985 and to less than US\$ 10 for a period during 1986. At the same time, the end of the year OPEC extended its previous agreement regarding the production ceilings assigned to the member states until the end of the year. A committee was set up to study the stabilization of prices and the means to raise them to US\$ 18 per barrel as from the beginning of 1987. To realize this, OPEC agreed to reduce oil production from 17 million to 15.5 million barrels per day, and production ceilings of the members were revised accordingly and approved, with the exception of Iraq which requested its share to be raised.

The large decrease in the value of the dollar made things worse for the oil exporters, as it is the currency usually used for the pricing of oil and most items of international trade. In February 1985 it was DM 3.31 and 250 Japanese yen, and at the end of 1986 it dropped to DM 1.92 and 158 yen representing decreases of 42% and 38% respectively. Furthermore, the Iraq-Iran war has entered its seventh year without any signs of a solution, and continued to affect the situation of the whole region and the world stability.

As a result of all these factors, the revenue of the Arab oil-exporting countries dropped from a peak of US\$ 216 billion in 1980 to US\$ 117 billion in 1984, US\$ 95 billion in 1985 and US\$ 65 billion in 1986. Those countries experienced deficits in their balance of payments and were forced to draw from their foreign currency reserves and to borrow from the international money markets. Economic activity slowed down, the execution of many new projects was stopped as governments adopted austerity policies reducing their expenditures and cutting down the allocations for the five-year development plans; this has affected importers, contractors and the banking sector which became overburdened with bad debts and suffered from a decrease in activities and profits.

Aid from the oil exporters to the neighbouring countries dropped gradually from US\$ 8.3 billion in 1981 to US\$ 4 billion in 1985. The latter countries found themselves compelled to depend more on foreign sources to finance their deficits, and total Arab indebted-

ness exceeded US\$ 100 billion by the end of 1985.

An important result of the economic stagnation in the Arab oil-exporting countries was its passive effect on the Arab labour force moving across the borders to wherever needed and estimated at four million persons. These labourers contributed during the boom period to the economic development of the oil countries as well as their own countries which benefited from their substantial remittances in foreign currencies and had lower unemployment rates. As early as 1982 when the oil countries started to control their expenditures and restrict their new projects, they ceased to import foreign labour, and soon after, the flow of labourers was reversed towards their countries of origin which may cause serious unemployment problems and a drop in foreign currency reserves.

Perhaps the most serious problem resulting from the continuation of the oil crisis and the existence of bottle-necks and lack of priorities in the Arab economic structure is the continuing increasing food deficit in the Arab countries. In Jordan, the food deficit has reached a level where some 400,000 tons of foodstuffs are needed annually to feed the population of 2.5 million. In Sudan exceeds 11 million hectares. In 1984 the Arab countries imported foodstuffs for about US\$ 22 billion, whereas their food exports amounted to only US\$ 3 billion. The deficit is on the increase.

World Economy

Contrary to expectations, the economic activity in most industrial countries, particularly industrial production, has been some what sluggish during 1986. Major developments including the sharp drop in oil prices, the further erosion of the primary commodity prices, and the substantial drop in the US dollar and the decline in international money rates, are expected to have a negative impact on the world economy. By the end of the year their effects began to boost the economy of some developed countries and will pick up more as domestic demand responds to lower interest rates and higher real incomes.

Economic growth of those countries on the whole was moderate at an average of about 2.7% for Europe, 3.2% for Japan, and 3.0% for the United States. However, it was uninflectionary, and will continue as a sustained growth only if the large imbalances in trade are redressed. Presently the United States is suffering from an increasing deficit in its trade balance; this deficit increased from 123 billion dollars in 1984 to 148 billion in 1985 and 170 billion in 1986. The United States current account was US\$ 123 billion in deficit in 1986, whereas Japan had a surplus of US\$ 83 billion and West Germany a surplus of US\$ 36 billion. There is also a serious deficit in the United States Federal Budget, which has increased to 220 billion dollars in 1986. In order to alleviate such imbalances, the big industrial countries held meetings in September 1985 and May 1986 and agreed to take the necessary measures to decrease interest and exchange rates of the dollar so as to help the United States compete with Japan and West Germany by an increase in exports. As a result, the interest rate on the dollar fell during the year

from 8.25% to 6%, and the value of the dollar fell from 2.5 DM to about 1.92 DM and from 200 Japanese yen to about 158 yen by the end of the year. The United States continued, however, to lay pressure on Japan and Germany to lower their interest rates and activate their economies and domestic demand so that American exports could increase. Japan decreased its discounts rate from 3.5% to 3.0%.

Unemployment remained a disturbing factor in the industrial countries, especially in Europe, where average unemployment was 11% compared with 7% in the United States.

Those developments have had negative effects on the economies of oil-exporting countries, whose revenues decreased by about US\$ 100 billion, forcing them to review their positions and cut down the allocations for their development plans.

As to the developing nations, the growth rate of some heavily indebted countries has decreased by half. Per capita income of some countries in East Asia increased by about 20% since 1980, whereas in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America it has decreased.

Oil-importing countries have benefited from the decreases in oil prices, international interest rates and the value of the dollar, but have suffered a 17% real drop in the prices of their primary commodities which registered a record low in 1986. Furthermore, customer and trade barriers impeded the export of those commodities. The industrial nations agreed upon reasonable prices for imported commodities and relaxed their trade barriers and restrictions, they would have helped the developing countries much more effectively than by the loans they gave. Also the subsidies of the developed nations to their exports of agricultural products reflected negatively on the agriculture of the developing nations. Industrial countries should help in developing agriculture in the Third World, whether through the advancement of scientific research or through the enhancement of agricultural production. More help should come not only from governments of industrial countries, but also from the International Institutions and the private commercial establishments through larger investment and adjustment loans and guidance at a scale sufficient to enable the developing nations to achieve reasonable economic growth and settle their debts and debt services. Adequate increases should be made in the financial potentialities of the World Bank to increase its investment loans, of the I.M.F. to be more able to extend adjustment aid and the correction of balances of payments, and of the I.D.A. to give more long-term loans at low interest rates to the poor countries burdened with debts and facing difficulties in obtaining financing from the money markets and governments. Such countries should also be allowed to have more access to the special drawing rights at the I.M.F.. The developing countries themselves must take an active part in solving their problems. They should make necessary adjustments in their monetary and fiscal policies, control their expenditures and create incentives for savings and investments, both domestic and foreign. Encouraging levels of interest rates, reasonable exchange rates of their currencies,

revised tax laws, relaxation of trade barriers and finding new markets for their exports are important incentives. An active and prosperous private sector would attract foreign investors and encourage them to capitalize a part of their funds and lending as investments in some local establishments and projects.

Comments on important items in the 1986 Financial Statements

In spite of the relatively weak world economy and the stagnation of the Arab economy, the figures of the balance sheet of your institution have not decreased; on the contrary Total Assets have registered an increase over 1985.

Such an increase has been realized even though the exchange rates of the currencies of the branches outside Jordan against the Jordan dinar, our reporting currency, have decreased to an extent never recorded in the previous years. The dinar has appreciated from US\$ 2.72 to US\$ 2.91 or a 7.4% increase, from £ Stg. 1.89 to £ Stg. 1.98 or a 4.6% increase and from about 49 to 253 Lebanese Liras, representing a 414% increase. Such increases have negative effects on the figures of those branches when converted into JD for compilation purposes, and lead to apparent decreases in the items of the combined balance sheet, especially as about 70% of Deposits and Cash at Banks are in foreign currencies, mainly US\$.

Notwithstanding all this, Deposits reached JD 2,977 million in 1986 compared with JD 2,903 million in 1985. These funds are mostly invested for periods matching those of the Deposits. The decrease in Loans from JD 1,948 million to JD 1,940.8 million is the result of the drop in the exchange rates, the economic slowdown and more caution on our part in granting facilities. These conditions have adversely affected trade and contracting activities, and hence the decrease in Documentary Credits by JD 8.8 million and in Letters of Guarantee by JD 42.4 million.

Cash and Balances due from banks stood at JD 1981.7 million against JD 1860.0 million in 1985, and these balances are placed for periods up to one year at the money market interest rates. Cash represents 66.6% of Deposits. You will notice that the Bonds item has increased from JD 176.7 million in 1985 to JD 188.0 million; the increase is mainly due to the purchase of local government bonds, which some of our branches have to buy according to local regulations, and which can be readily repaid at the central banks or sold at the money markets. When these marketable bonds are added to the cash, the liquid assets of the Bank rise to JD 2,170 million or 72.9% of Deposits.

Investments (including subsidiaries) rose from JD 21.4 million to JD 23.6 million in 1986, an increase of JD 2.2 million. Actually the increase is greater, as an amount of JD 2.7 million, the equivalent of 12.5 million Australian dollars, was paid for the capital of Arab Australia Ltd., and JD 343,750, the equivalent of US\$ 1 million, was paid for the capital of the newly established Arab Capital Investment Company in Luxembourg which owns Arab Bank (Austria). But the real increase in investments appeared smaller in the balance sheet because of the drop in exchange rates.

Bank premises, furniture and equipment were depreciated in accordance with local regulations in the different countries.

Earnings

A proportionate part of interest and commission received accrues from foreign currencies. As a result of the decreases in international interest rates and in exchange rates against the Jordan dinar, Earnings before tax and after subtraction of the interest paid increased only by about JD 0.5 million to JD 66.8 million in 1986. An adequate amount was allocated to internal reserves. After deduction of all expenses including employees' salaries and benefits, depreciation, administrative expenses, taxes and provisions, an amount of JD 23.5 million is left over as net profit for appropriation.

Appropriation of Net Profit

The Board of Directors recommends the following appropriations:

- JD 15.8 million to the reserves.
- JD 7.7 million as dividends to

the Shareholders at JD 3.5 per share (35% of the par value of JD 10) payable as from Thursday 30th April, 1987).

— JD 14,700 as remuneration to the Members of the Board of Directors.

— On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, our sister institution, Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd., will distribute a special dividend of 5% in addition to the ordinary 10% dividend.

Shareholders Equity

	million
Paid-up capital	JD 22.0
remained at	
Total reserves, after allocation from the 1986 profit	JD 142.4
Total Equity	JD 164.4
This represents an increase of 10.6% over 1985	

New Branches

Our Cannes branch in France commenced its activities in June 1986 and is fully equipped to render its services to the Arab visitors and local residents throughout the year. Another branch was opened in December in Ch-toura, Lebanon. A permit has been obtained from the Egyptian Government to open a second branch in Cairo and a part of a building in Heliopolis quarters was purchased to accommodate the new branch which will open for business during 1987. Thus we shall have three branches in Egypt: two in Cairo and one in Alexandria, all dealing in the major transferable currencies.

Arab Australia Ltd, our new subsidiary bank in Sydney, opened in early September 1986, and our representative office in Tokyo, Japan, opened in November 1986.

We hope to establish shortly a representative office in Seoul, South Korea. You will notice that we are presently concentrating on opening new branches and offices in the Far East and Australia on account of the economic importance of those parts of the world.

Board of Directors

On 28th March 1986 a new Board was elected, and is composed as follows:

Mr. Abdulmajed A.H. Shoman, Mr. Khalid A.H. Shoman, Mr. Abdel Hamid A.M. Shoman, Mr. Mahmoud M. Beydoun, Mr. Farouk K. Jabre, Mr. George S. Tannous, Mr. Munib R. Masri, Mr. Hasib J. Sabbagh, Mr. Rafic B. Alhariri, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Finance and Petroleum, Kuwait.

We wish to thank Mr. Badr Khalid Al Badr for all the services he rendered to the Bank during his membership, and Mr. Faisal A.R. Al Khalid who represented the Ministry of Finance and Petroleum, Kuwait, in one Board meeting. He became then a minister in the Kuwaiti government and Mr. Saad Ali Alnashedh was chosen as a new representative.

The Board of Directors expresses its gratitude to all clients who entrust their business to the branches as a result of confidence, and thanks all employees of the Bank and its subsidiaries and sister institutions for their good efforts in the service of the customers and the progress of their institutions. May God give us strength to achieve our aim of rendering more support to the economy of the Arab homeland and all countries where we operate.

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Far-flung Arab artists regroup in Amman

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Many Arab artists, especially those living and working away from their native homes, have received international recognition while remaining relatively unknown within the Arab World. This has happened despite the fact that their work is of some importance, having been produced more often than not under critical and competitive conditions. Attempting to redress this balance, in her own words "humbly," is an exhibition at the Petra Bank Art Gallery put together by sculptress Muna Saudi.

Comprising the work of 17 Arab artists working in such far-flung places as Japan, London, Paris, Rome and New York, the exhibition has taken Saudi a year to collect together. "All the artists are close friends," Saudi told the Jordan Times, "so there was no great organisation needed. Their contributions came gradually and slowly and suddenly I realised I had enough for an exhibition."

In the accompanying leaflet, Saudi writes about her friendship with these artists. "I got to know them at different times and in different places. We were brought together by our deep sense of responsibility for creativity and artistic research and despite the geographical distances that separate us, I feel as if they are always living around me. When it happens that occasionally we meet in cities, exhibitions, art seminars, I feel as if we are in continuous contact and we go on to finish a conversation we started yesterday."

Caligraphy

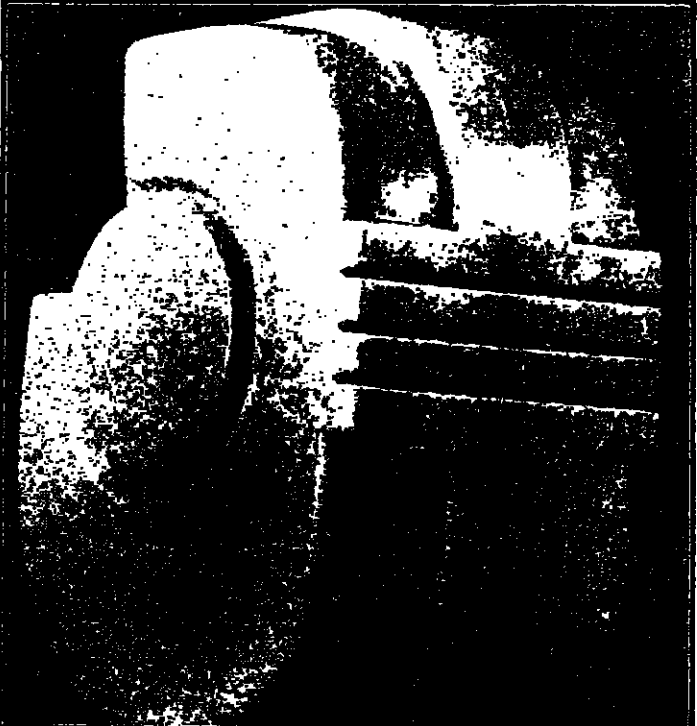
One of the common themes, of course, is caligraphy, the rich heritage of language and literature being the real essence of Arabic culture. One of the first artists to have used Arabic calligraphy as an element in his paintings is the Syrian born artist Sami Burhan. Burhan, now living in Rome, began his career as a professional calligrapher, from which base he developed his art. This recent, small selection of his work shows how he incorporates a word almost entirely into an abstract design, the letters only emerging like a secret code to those who know how to look for them. His work can thus stand as calligraphy or as pure abstract compositions and both work equally well.

Another very famous calligrapher is Kamal Bulatta who exhibited in Amman some three years ago at the Jordan National Gallery. In these pieces of his latest work, Bulatta is continuing his research into calligraphy. "In Arabic culture," Saudi explained, "the language is a living substance and Bulatta is trying to find this living quality in a visual medium."

Bulatta achieves this almost solely by his use of colour. By employing very elaborate, almost luminous tones, shades so subtle and rare that they defy easy



Geometric shapes of pure, bright colours laid on top of each other like a collage with flowing black letters. Painting by Dia Azzawi (above). Cool, sensuous sculpture by organiser of the exhibition Muna Saudi



definition, Bulatta imbues his compositions with vibrant energy. The letters appear to move and flow creating interior spaces that hint at something mystic and profound.

It is to the work of Iraqi born artist Saleh Al Jumaie that many people will gravitate for his early tones and strange, ancient, scroll-like writings make you feel that if only you could unravel their message you would know the secret of the universe. A graduate of the Iraqi Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad, of the California College of Arts and Crafts, Jumaie, now residing in California, etches letter like shapes in columns and blocks over his paper which he then paints in wonderful ancient ceramic colours that both in tone and texture look like he has old crushed pots as his media. As Helen Khal writes "Al Jumaie transforms the repetitive linear characteristics of the Arabic script into a mysterious cuneiform language that tantalises the mind and eye. Here and there an occasional word is legible, but on the whole it is a secret language that calls for intuitive perception and understanding."

Saudi feels the work of Syrian artist Arnaout, who studied in Rome and Paris before returning to teach art in Damascus, is an extension of the etchings of Al Jumaie. An innovator — Arna-

out has just developed and patented a technique that will greatly facilitate the reproduction of colour — he uses several different kinds of media to create his calligraphic designs, the best of which is the one where the letters break out of their formal decorated design to fan freely into the blue.

Another very established and respected Iraqi painter working along the same lines as Al Jumaie is Shaker Hasau Al Said, who was one of the first Arab artists to put forward the principles of how Arab art should be modern, yet relate to the part of the world from which it stems. A mystic painter, Al Said makes his work look like it has been lifted from ancient graffiti strewn walls bearing on their scratched and time worn surfaces the traces of life that has passed it by over the centuries. The results are superb abstractions, whose textured beige surfaces are splattered, streaked, sprayed and imprinted with crimson, browns and blues.

The calligraphic compositions of Algerian born, French trained Rashid Koraichi, made up of tiny squares and patterns of writing across which move the huge bold angles of partly seen letters, lead to the equally bold lettering that dominates the work of Dia Azzawi. The work of this highly acclaimed Iraqi artist, who now lives in London, was seen in

Abstracts

The work of Sudanese etcher Mohammad Khalil bears much in common with both Hallaby's and Azzawi's heavy blacks and maroons. Khalil frames his collage like patterns of geometrical shapes, whose symmetry is enhanced by careful stripes and patterns that overlay them. Technically Khalil's etchings are immaculate, particularly his black and white pieces that are full of subtle textures and emerging shapes.

ART REVIEW

Finally in this group of pure abstract painters is Vladimir Tamari. Tamari studied art and physics and still works in both fields. Whilst inventing machines for drawing three dimensional images and for topographical measurements, he paints haunting grids of subtle moving colours that tell of landscapes seen from windows, of wild free spaces controlled and confined — images stimulated perhaps by the fact Tamari lives and works in Japan.

Moving through Paul Guragosian's abstractions of a jostling crowd, we come to the more figurative artists in the group: like Syrian born Nazli Naber who concerns himself with the heritage of Damascus; Egyptian impressionist, artist Shalalib Ibrahim; Iraqi expressionist Mohammad Muharrad; our own Ahmad Nawash and Sulaiman Mansour, who is currently one of the most important artists on the West Bank.

Sculptures

Completing the exhibition in more ways than one are three of Saudi's own sculptures. Dating from different periods in her career they relay the essence of her work — smooth and sensuous, pure and glowing — they curve, flow and grow with an organic naturalness. As Anne Mullin Burnham writes: "Her work has a stillness and movement, immediacy and continuity. Perhaps more strikingly, it is both intimate and monumental." Choosing rare and beautiful stones, Saudi brings them to life, sculpting them with visually apparent care until they become, seemingly effortlessly, what they were always meant to be.

Saudi hopes that this group exhibition will become an annual event, each year seeing new names included. The exhibition which opens on Monday, March 30, runs until April 9.

Jordan's lesser known antiquities — charming and mysterious remnants of the past

Text and photos by
Josephine Zananiri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the Near East even the humblest of rocks has connections with antiquity, having been kicked over by biblical armies, hurled by enraged shepherds or even forged by Roman masons into beautiful temples. When even the smallest of stones breathes history, Jordan's abundance of ancient sites is quite understandable.

However, as the greatest of the Kingdom's antiquities are of such monumental scale and significance, many of the smaller sites scattered across the country are frequently nothing more than a forlorn, fenced off remnants of forgotten civilisations and styles ranging over the thousands of years of Near Eastern history.

One of the most charming dots of the past is the Roman tomb, located on a rising hillside not far from the old Amman-Jerash road. The road is presently used as the major access between the western suburbs and the old airport or Mahatta.

External facades

The small, rectangular building stands as a solemn reminder of both human death and the inevitable passing of empires and remains a stark contrast to the lively Roman towns of the north. The external facades of the building are fairly sumptuous; the frieze is finely carved into light floral motifs and the roof once housed some quite sophisticated carved columns, only one of which remains standing. The others, having fallen to the ground, make useful chairs for the occasional picnickers.

There are three high windows and one entrance to the tomb — each located on one of the four walls. The door way, although now derelict was once carved with fine step-up architraving. On first impression, the interior and floor are covered in a fine dust which appears never to have escaped the tomb but risen and fallen to become finer, with each intrusion throughout the hundreds of intervening years.

The interior is a total contrast to the regular square exterior. The ceiling is domed in a beautiful executed soft, cup-like central feature. It is totally obscured

outside by the high carved frieze. The dome forms a centre for a cross formation in the tomb. The four ends of the cross, slightly below the level of the dome, are magnificent arched vaults and like the dome, their construction is so ordered and well preserved that it may well have been put together no more than a hundred years ago.

Unanswered questions

The cross-like lay out of the tomb is not explained in any way by the original impression of the building. The final internal spaces unaccounted for and making up the total area — little squares at each corner — were probably used as burial chambers. But who were the four interned in the fine tiny monument, and why were the dead provided with a cistern, now a rubbish filled hole at the back of the tomb? Were the occupants considered important enough to have guard who presumably used the provided water and, finally, what is the significance of a tomb constructed far from Amman or Philadelphia as it was then known or any nearby Roman town?

Although a fine tomb, it is hardly important in the overall pattern of Near Eastern archaeology of Roman sites and thus has received little attention. So let us hypothesize a little. If it was constructed in the Third Century A.D., hegemony was well established in Jordan when Pompey formerly subdued the area in 106 A.D. So then could the tomb be that of an important Roman figure, perhaps sent to the far desert for a misdemeanour and forced to over-see tax collection or lay waste to the surrounding war-like tribes. Was this mysterious figure accompanied by a wife and children who possibly died during the spread of some plague? Was the family accompanied by a retinue of servants who perhaps served their master, constructing the small cistern so that they could live nearby and tend in death for those they cared for in life?

If from the previous century, could the tomb be that of a valiant Roman general who fought in the wars against the troublesome Herodian dynasty? Could the shaded hill top have been a favoured hunting place or a secluded area where the general retired to ponder the latest news from Rome. Was the tomb built



The old farmhouse — Bait Haja — in Wadi Seer is now in a state of ruin since its unknown owners left their residence.

by loyal legionaries who thought it a fitting symbol for a much admired leader and installed a small cistern nearby so that travellers could rest themselves and think of both the glories of Rome and their general.

The identity of those once buried at Qasr Nueijis is unlikely to be discovered now, there are no inscriptions on the building, perhaps none were ever carried out. The tomb however remains a symbol — possibly to the genius of Roman engineering and certainly to a brilliant, long gone empire.

Bait Haja

The time lapse between construction of the Roman tomb and the elegant Wadi Saeer farm house, known as Bait Haja, is over 1,500 years yet both share the same lonely aura of neglect. Bait Haja as the villagers of El Bassa call it was probably constructed in the last century, during a wave of migrations from Salt to the fertile southern plains.

The dwelling, perched on the hillside overlooking the fertile Wadi Saeer valley, is a fine example of farmhouse architecture. Constructed on two levels, much of the stately building is now in a state of ruin. The lower floor of the house appears to have been used for grain storage and possibly servants' quarters and includes a courtyard with a magnificent mulberry tree which must have been a tiny seedling at the time of construction of the building.

The upper level is reached by an external stairway, which rises dramatically in more than thirty feet of sharply rising stone steps. In the family living quarters, one roof remains — a perfect cross-vault in the best Jerusalem tradition. The walls include typical farmhouse arched recesses as well as rectangular recesses used as storage places for bedding during daylight hours. Through the passage of time, much of the upper floor has become an open air garden filled with white and yellow spring flowers whose pungent perfume wafts through the whole dwelling.

The stone masonry of the house is neat and smoothly cut, suggesting that stone masons were brought from outside the valley, possibly even Jerusalem or Nabulus, as peasant homes are constructed from roughly-hewn stones. The windows of the farmhouse are generally arched and the living quarters are protected by strong vertical bars of graduated size relating to the window arch.

Derelict outbuildings

A short distance from the dwelling lies a derelict series of out buildings, probably the house's stables and even granary. Built in the peasant style, with low sloping vaulted roofs, the chambers are entered directly from a narrow road. Each remaining door is rustic, solid and aged, when opened slightly the stone chambers reveal the green bounties of spring as flowers, grass and creepers climb prolifically over ancient stones.

The peasants of El Bassa do not know the fate of the owners of the house. "They left a long time ago, to Amman," says one of the young women of the village. Asked when, she shrugged and, after a hurried conference amongst the girls said, "I don't know, probably at the time of the Turks."

The villagers have crowded their own tiny cement block houses around the farmhouse and stables, having a generation ago abandoned the organic stone village on the opposite side of the valley. "There was no road leading to the old village," adds the same girl, "now only a few of the elderly stay over there."

Both Bait Haja and Qasr Nueijis are monuments to their own times, each representing a small sector of the past in an area where the trappings of by-gone days lie literally under every stone.



Roman tomb on a hillside near the old Amman-Jerash road — a little known remnant of a bygone civilisation

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Earthy tones and ancient scroll-like writings by Saleh Al Jumaie. Painting from exhibition "Fragments from Ancient Books" held in Washington, Spring 1986.

Wilander downs McEnroe, retains Belgian indoor title

BRUSSELS (R) — Mats Wilander retained his Belgian Indoor Tennis Championship and became the second Swede in a week to deprive former world number one John McEnroe of a Grand Prix title.

Wilander, the second seed, followed the example of Swedish number one Stefan Edberg, who beat McEnroe in the Rotterdam final last Sunday, with a 6-3, 6-4 win in Brussels.

"I should not lose to Wilander on an indoor court," said McEnroe, still struggling for consistency following his layoff from the game last year.

But the third-seeded American complimented his opponent on playing a clever match.

Wilander, who is also fighting to return to form after taking a break to get married, took an early grip on the Sunday match and was only briefly threatened in the second set.

"I am very satisfied with my game. I put in the right shots at the right moment," he said.

Wilander gratefully accepted a spate of McEnroe misfires to break the American in the fourth game, then held his next three service games to take the first set

in 42 minutes.

McEnroe, who has been suffering from hip trouble throughout the tournament, launched a determined fightback early in the second set, but was unable to rattle the Swede.

He broke Wilander to lead 3-1, but Wilander retaliated with some devastating returns to break back in the fifth game after four deuces.

With McEnroe's spirit visibly flagging and his net play lacking authority, Wilander then saved two break points against his serve to level at 3-3.

That was to prove McEnroe's final flurry. The games went with serve until the ninth when Wilander's speed around the court once again upset McEnroe, who tripped and fell at 15-30 as he rushed to return a forehand drive.

Wilander took the game after wrong-footing McEnroe at the net and went on to hold serve for victory and \$50,000 in prize



Mats Wilander

money.

McEnroe, who will take a week's break from the game to try and shake off his hip problem, said he reckoned he was now around number seven in the world.

"It would have been nice to begin leave with a win, but I felt a little flat. I was a bit too impatient," he said.

Napoli poised for title after beating Juventus

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Napoli is poised for its first Italian League title after a humiliating 2-1 defeat of champion Juventus which owed much to a dazzling display by two players who are fast emerging from the shadow of Diego Maradona.

The pair, goalscorers Sandro Renica and Francesco Romano, superbly marshalled by captain Maradona, made their opponents from Turin — with the notable exception of Frenchman Michel Platini — seem tired and jaded.

Napoli, seeking the first championship of its 61-year history, extended its lead to five points over Roma, unexpectedly beaten 2-1 by relegation-bound Udinese, and Internazionale Milan, held to a goalless draw by Torino. The season has six weeks left.

News of Udinese's second goal against Roma prompted an outburst of near-delirium by the noisy Napoli fans in the 82,000-strong crowd who braved intermittent rain in the city's San Paolo Stadium.

Juventus's second defeat by Napoli this season must have brought home to the former European champion, who has won 22 league shields, the fact that its reign is, for the moment at least, at an end.

Napoli proved its worth as pre-tenders to the throne, going 1-0 ahead after 13 minutes from a beautifully-played set-piece by Maradona and Renica.

Maradona stepped up to take a free kick seven metres outside the penalty box and touched the ball delicately sideways to Renica, who thundered home a shot which went between goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi's legs.

Juventus looked dangerous only once in the first half when 17-year-old Renato Buso, standing in for injured Dado Prizmić, sent a shot wide. Buso, who thundered home a shot which went between goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi's legs.

Other drugs, Nebiolo said.

Ephedrine is an alkaloid used to relieve nasal congestion and asthma. Many athletes have complained in the past they had to take it as medicine and it should not be considered a drug.

Nebiolo said the first offence detected with ephedrine would carry a three-month ban, the second a ban for two years, and the third a ban for life.

"For all other drugs, it will be a suspension of two years for the first offence and then for life at the second, with no appeal," Nebiolo said. "Two years represent about 35 per cent of the average competitive life of an athlete, and we feel it is among the stiffest punishments for drugs in all sports."

The IAAF president said that the council had reviewed some cases of past drug bans and decided the reinstatement of several athletes although "with regrets that the new decisions (on drug penalties) could not be introduced immediately."

Potter and Mandlikova, the top seed, will vie for the \$30,500 top prize Sunday night. Mandlikova, who has yet to lose a set this

whose inexperience showed in a team already depleted by injury, was substituted by Massimo Briaschi early in the second half.

Platini, who is expected to leave Juventus this year to make way for Welshman Ian Rush, often seemed to be running a one-man show with many of his cleverest shots going to waste as team-mates over-ran or miskicked the ball.

But Aldo Serena latched on to a Platini cross five minutes after the interval to take goalkeeper Claudio Garella by surprise and head home the equaliser.

The move made Napoli step up its attack and eight minutes later, after the ball had been in and out of the Juventus area like a yo-yo, Romano scored with a crafty low shot.

Platini tried in vain to tilt the balance, once shooting wide with the rebound from a free kick and seeing Garella dive to save another effort.

Udinese, whose season has been dismal after it was given a nine-point handicap for its part in a betting scandal, surprisingly became heroes in Naples with its two goals against Roma.

The Romans, three points behind Napoli before Sunday, were leading at the interval after a goal by Sebastiano Nela but their defence fell apart in the second half.

A mistake by winger Bruno Conti, as he passed a dead ball back to his goalkeeper Franco Tancredi, allowed Udinese's Francesco Graziani to score, while stopper Massimo Storato put his shot just out of Tancredi's reach for the second goal in the 81st minute.

Fifth-placed Milan, defeated 2-1 by Sampdoria, had a penalty by Giuseppe Galdini saved in the 31st minute. Striker Gianluca Viali and Brazil's Toninho Cerezo scored the Sampdoria goals.

Italian First Division Standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Napoli	24	14	8	2	36	14	36
Roma	24	12	7	5	33	18	31
Internazionale	24	12	7	5	29	15	31
Juventus	24	11	8	5	33	22	30
Milan	24	11	7	6	24	16	29
Sampdoria	24	10	7	7	27	17	27
Verona	24	9	9	6	26	22	27

Mandlikova beats Sukova

FAIRFAX, Virginia (AP) — Czechoslovakia's Hana Mandlikova defeated fellow countrywoman Helena Sukova Saturday, 6-3, 6-2 to join Barbara Potter in the finals of the \$150,000 Washington Women's Tennis Tournament.

Potter, the only unseeded player in the semifinals, fought off four match points to eliminate fourth-seeded Zina Garrison, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6.

Potter and Mandlikova, the top seed, will vie for the \$30,500 top prize Sunday night. Mandlikova, who has yet to lose a set this

week, is 6-0 lifetime against Potter.

Mandlikova negated the 6-foot-2 Sukova's net game with a steady barrage of passing shots. Sukova also had problems with her serve, allowing Mandlikova five service breaks in eight attempts.

Sukova, the world's sixth-ranked player, now owns a 1-12 record against Mandlikova.

Mandlikova, ranked No. 4 used service breaks in the second and sixth games to take a 5-1 lead in the first set. Sukova then shrugged off two set-points to pull to within 5-2. But two games later Mandlikova served out the set at 15.

Mandlikova won the final six games of the second set to close out the match in 78 minutes.

Potter was on the brink of elimination in the final set when Garrison was serving for the match at 5-3, 40-30 Potter battled back from that deficit, then shrugged off three more match points in the 12th game to knot the set at 6-6.

Potter, down 2-4 in the tie-breaker, won the final five points to win the decisive games, 7-4.

Muguruma's WBA win tops title bouts

MORIGUCHI, Japan (AP) — Takuya Muguruma of Japan steadily battered Panama's Azael Moran in the head and body and knocked him out in the fifth round Sunday, winning the vacant World Boxing Association bantamweight title.

American referee Larry Rozzella counted Moran out at 2:50 of the fifth round of the scheduled 15-round bout after Muguruma had downed him for the second time in the round.

Moran had sagged to his knees just after the bell ended the fourth round. And in the fifth, Muguruma chased him through-out the round with rights and lefts. After about two minutes, Moran, backed into the ropes, sagged to his knees again but stood up and resumed the fight.

Muguruma continued to batter the Panamanian with right and lefts, and when Moran went to his knees for the third time in the fight, he was unable to recover.

Choi retains IBF title

In Seoul, South Korea's Choi Chom-Hwan retained his International Boxing Federation junior flyweight title Sunday with a split decision over Tacy Macalos of the Philippines.

It was Choi's first defence of the title he wrested from countryman Park Cho-Un last December.

There were no knockdowns in the 15-round bout, which was televised from a municipal gymnasium in Savon, about 40 kilometres (24 miles) south of Seoul.

Filipino judge Alexandro Francisco favoured Macalos 146-143, while Indonesia's Leon Johannes scored the Choi victory 147-143.

The challenger was aggressive in the early rounds, scoring with sharp lefts, but failed to slow Choi's fast footwork. Choi broke Macalos' offensive in the seventh round and began countering with lightning hooks and straights.

The Filipino opened a bad cut over Choi's left eye in the 12th round, but Choi continued to attack with success.

Jacobson defeats Julio

In Copenhagen, Denmark's Gert Bo Jacobson grabbed the world junior lightweight championship on Saturday after the referee stopped the contest with Felipe Julio of Colombia in the fifth round.

Jacobson, the reigning European lightweight champion, dominated the fight in all five rounds.

The 23-year-old Columbian withstood a lot of punishment from the Dane's hard and fast left-right combinations. But the referee halted the match one minute and 18 seconds into the fifth round when Julio began to bleed from a cut above his left eye.

Jacobson, 25, is undefeated in 20 matches, and Julio has scored 17 knockouts in 22 pro fights.

Whitaker takes NABF title

In Norfolk, Pernel "Sweet-pea" Whitaker scored a unanimous decision over Roger Mayweather in a 12-round bout Saturday for the North American Boxing Federation (NABF) lightweight crown.

The three judges scored the fight 116-110, 117-111, 116-112.

Whitaker, 25, is undefeated in 20 matches, and Julio has scored 17 knockouts in 22 pro fights.

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Whitaker takes NABF title

In Norfolk, Pernel "Sweet-pea" Whitaker scored a unanimous decision over Roger Mayweather in a 12-round bout Saturday for the North American Boxing Federation (NABF) lightweight crown.

The three judges scored the fight 116-110, 117-111, 116-112.

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for the former Olympic gold medalist. Scoring was on the 10-point must system. The title was a first for the 23-year-old Norfolk native whose record is now 12-0 as a professional.

Whitaker's camp thought the fight would be the toughest test to date for their fighter, who has not scored a knock out since November 1985.

Whitaker opened the fight strong and took control in the first round when he sent Mayweather to the canvas just before the opening round ended. Mayweather began the second round with a flurry of rights, many scoring on Whitaker. But Whitaker responded with frequent combinations of body blows followed by lefts to the head.

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IAAF council tightens drug regulations

ROME (AP) — The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) on Sunday awarded the 1991 World Track Championships to Tokyo, tightened drug regulations and voted to return amateur standing to some U.S. football players.

The IAAF council capped a three-day session in Rome with its vote on the controversial issue of American football players seeking to return to amateur track competition. The 21-man body voted to reinstate Stan Floyd, Mel Lattany, and Mark McNeil, but rejected applications from Willie Gault, Henry Ellard and Vince Courville.

Gault won a gold medal in the 1983 Helsinki World Championships with the American men's 400-metre relay quartet.

A precedent was set last year when the IAAF reinstated former American football player Renaldo Nehemiah, world record-holder in the 110-metre hurdles.

Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Batsoun

The following report summarizes trading activities in Amman of major European and Arab currencies as well as gold prices. The writer is a foreign exchange dealer at the Arab Finance Corporation (merged with Halim Salibi and Sons Co.).

AMMAN — Last week the U.S. dollar opened weak and dealers began selling the currency, although there was intervention from the central banks, especially the Bank of Japan, which intervened in the market with around \$6 billion to support the currency from falling further, but to no avail.

The dollar fell heavily against Japanese yen — the higher American budget deficit in comparison with the Japanese trade surplus was the cause of this heavy drop in the dollar against the yen. Also, the sentiment of dealers all around the world is still to sell the dollar. The dollar traded in the range of 0.336-0.340 fil to the JD. Charts indicate that the dollar is going to fall more this week to lower levels against the Deutsch Mark and the Japanese yen. The expected ranges for this week are 0.333-0.338 fil. The pound sterling lost

ground against the dollar, mainly because of profit taking. It fell to reach 0.5450 fil on the JD and 2.91 on the DM.

The DM/SF moved to higher levels. DM traded between 0.1780-0.1880 fil and SF between 0.220-0.228 fil. The Lebanese lira (LL) traded within a very narrow range because of the uncertainty in the Lebanon. LL traded between (320-360) LL/JD. The Syrian lira traded between (70-65) SL/JD and the Kuwaiti dinar traded between 1.2150 to 1.2225 on the JD. The Egyptian pound traded between 0.175-0.185 fil and the Iraqi dinar between 0.24-0.28 fil.

Metals

Metals traded higher because of the weak dollar and higher oil prices and lower stock prices. Gold jumped from a low of \$405 an ounce to \$423 an ounce. Silver from \$5.82 an ounce to \$6.35 an ounce, charts indicate that metals should move up to \$430 an ounce on gold before dropping back to \$412 an ounce. Gold prices in Amman, based on the daily bulletin issued by the Jordan Jewelry Store Company are as follows: Gold per gramme 21 carats JD 4.100 - 3.950 Gold per gramme 18 carats JD 3.950 - 3.750

Paper reveals high jobless figure in Soviet Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (R) — A quarter of a million people are out of work in the southern Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, where the authorities have begun shifting jobless workers to Siberia, an official newspaper reported Sunday. Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya indicated there was a certain amount of resistance to the worker resettlement programme, saying Azerbaijanis had voiced desires to stay in their homeland. But it said officials nonetheless planned in the next five years to double the number of people sent from the warm, oil-producing republic bordering the Caspian Sea, to construction sites across Siberia and elsewhere.

The newspaper said industries such as the Caspian oil and gas fields had laid off workers as part of the Kremlin's economic efficiency drive. "In the republic there are now 250,000 people not employed in social production," it said, commenting: "It would not be expedient for their ranks to grow."

Publication of the unemployment figures is a new development in the Soviet Union, where under Communist Party guidelines for the planned economy there are supposed to be no jobless.

The newspaper said 35,000 to 40,000 young Azerbaijanis would be sent to projects such as the Tyumen oil and gas fields in western Siberia, the east Siberian Baikal-Amur railway line, and non-black soil areas (the less fer-

tile areas, mostly located in central and northern European Russia) of the Russian federation.

It said thousands of the migrants were volunteers but others were not so willing to leave despite the view of Communist Party organs in the republic that it was the "patriotic duty" of Azerbaijanis to take jobs elsewhere. "This is observed in a less than easy struggle with old outlooks and habits," the newspaper said, referring to lack of understanding among the population of "internationalist" goals.

It said one of the problems stemming from the resettlement plans was the depletion of Azerbaijan's male population, as men left the republic without their wives, and poor knowledge of the Russian language even among the highly educated.

Azerbaijan and other southern Soviet republics have begun facing an employment problem due in part to the high birth rate among their largely Muslim populations.

An economist from the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan recently said there were one million unemployed Uzbeks. He said jobs were available in factories but rural areas where the population was rising were not producing skilled workers.

Analysts said frankness on the subject could be viewed as a manifestation of the current Kemlin policy of openness on negative trends as well as positive factors in Soviet life.

World recession reduces IDB loans

ISTANBUL (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) said in its 11th annual report that loans during the last Islamic year fell 24 per cent due to world economic recession.

Total financing approved by the bank for projects, trade, and technical and special assistance fell to 756.9 million Islamic dinars (\$848.6 million) in the year ended Sept. 4, 1986, from 1,001.4 million dinars (\$988.9 million) the previous year.

The report was submitted to the two-day board of governors meeting in Istanbul ending Sunday.

"Due to a general recession in the world economy, the demand for development funds was low and there was a scarcity of, of processable projects in most member countries during 1406 (September 1985-86)," the report said.

It said a steep decline in oil prices had led to a major transfer of resources from oil-producing countries to industrial nations.

"The oil exporting member nations of the IDB faced a major adjustment problem arising from a sizable decline in oil prices and loss of export earnings, affecting their position as potential suppliers of capital," the report said.

Project financing and technical assistance loans fell to 175.7 million Islamic dinars (\$192.5 million) in the year ended last September from 269.4 million dinars (\$267.2 million) the previous year.

The report said that although there was a reduction in foreign trade financing loans in the past year due to sharp decline in the price of oil and various primary commodities, the quantity financed in physical terms of imports was higher.

Foreign trade financing declined to 572.8 million dinars (\$647.3 million) from 668.2 million dinars (659.4 million) the previous year.

Disbursements of loans during the past year, including previously-approved loans, fell to 557.2 million dinars (\$635.2 million) from 783.9 million dinars (\$777.6 million).

The bank in 1986 decided to establish a fund under the name "IDB Unit Trust" to introduce and market financial instruments in line with the principles of Islam, the report said.

"This experience will provide a foundation for the floating of other financial instruments in the near future through which the bank expects to mobilize even larger resources," the report said.

The Jeddah-based IDB was established by the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and opened in October 1975.

Trade doubles in 10 years

Mr. Ahmad Mohammad Ali, IDB president said earlier that trade among OIC countries has doubled during the last decade and that the figure constitutes 10 per cent of the OIC total trade.

"Ten years ago trade among Islamic countries was around four to five per cent (of their total trade). So it has been almost doubled to 10 per cent in the last 10 years. But we hope for more than that," he told a news conference.

He said a long-term trade financing scheme prepared by the OIC Standing Committee for commercial and economic cooperation would start functioning shortly.

So far, 16 OIC members had decided to take part in the scheme, which would finance trade in non-traditional goods among participating countries.

Trade tensions may bring down dollar

NEW YORK (R) — Foreign exchange markets will continue to defy central bank intervention and push the dollar lower against the yen and other currencies unless there is a significant easing in U.S.-Japanese trade tensions, according to currency analysts.

Although the central banks have bought an estimated \$5 to \$6 billion on the open market in the past week, greater attention is being paid to apparent signs of impatience in Washington over the speed of Japanese action to help to redress gaping trade imbalances.

In the most striking indication of impatience, President Reagan said on Friday he intended to raise tariffs by as much as \$300 million on Japanese exports to the United States in retaliation to Tokyo's failure to abide by a 1986 U.S.-Japanese semiconductor agreement.

"The market has interpreted various comments... as an indication that the United States is talking the dollar lower," Mr. Scott Pardee, vice chairman of Yamaichi International (America) Inc., said.

In recent months, Washington has been viewed as favouring a lower dollar because by making U.S. goods more competitive

abroad it might help to narrow the trade gap.

"Open-mouth policy is more powerful than open market policy," Mr. Pardee, who formerly headed the New York Federal Reserve's foreign exchange operations, said.

Heavy dollar selling began last Monday after U.S. trade representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, warned of a serious trade war between the United States and Japan and U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker said there were no target levels for the dollar.

The dollar fell to a 40-year low against the yen of 148.20 before concerted central bank intervention and official calls for dollar stability helped to assuage some of the market's selling fervour.

However, such action was rendered almost meaningless by U.S. Assistant Treasury Secretary David Mulford's comment on Thursday that Japan and West Germany had not yet carried out their international responsibilities.

To add fuel to the fire, Japan announced a record trade surplus for February on Friday and White House officials said President Reagan was ready to take retaliatory trade action against Japan for breaking the semiconductor

pact. The market's response was swift and emphatic, with the dollar falling as low as 147.30 against the yen in nervous early afternoon trading in New York, dealers said.

"The dollar is on its way to 140 yen and maybe on to 120 yen unless Mr. Baker comes out and says that the United States does not want a further move downwards," Mr. James O'Neill, financial markets economist at Marine Midland Banks Inc., said.

Mr. Lawrence Kreicher, currency analyst at Irving Trust Co., agreed. "I would not be surprised to see 145 or 146 next week and ultimately we could see 140, or even 120. The only question is when," he said.

Apart from precautionary short-covering, the dollar may get some welcome relief in the coming week when Japanese fiscal year-end pressures subside and if March U.S. employment figures show signs of strength in the economy, economists say.

"There is also a (federal open market committee) meeting... it is possible the Fed (Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank) could tighten policy to help the dollar," Mr. O'Neill said.

While the Federal Reserve would no doubt be reluctant to

nudge interest rates higher due to the U.S. economy's persistently uneven progress, analysts said it could not afford to risk a debilitating loss of confidence in the dollar.

"The United States is risking a very sharp increase in inflation by having a rapid dollar decline," Mr. Pardee said.

(Federal Reserve Chairman Paul) Volcker is very concerned about a precipitous fall," Mr. Steven Cerier, international economist at Manufacturers Hanover Trust, said.

However, he added that such action on the part of the Federal Reserve would have only a fleeting impact if the United States and Japan cannot resolve their fundamental differences over trade.

Apart from the semiconductor dispute, the market will also be eagerly anticipating February's U.S. trade figures, to be released on April 14. The trade deficit widened to \$14.8 billion in January from \$12.7 billion in December.

"The driving force behind currency movements is the trade imbalance. As long as the Japanese trade surplus is so large, the yen has to appreciate," Mr. Cerier said.

Polish government announces sweeping price increases

WARSAW (AP) — The Polish government on Saturday announced sweeping price hikes for many basic goods and services and the opposition Solidarity trade union warned of protests against the increases.

The price increases, ranging from about 10 per cent to 100 per cent, affect basic foodstuffs, cigarettes and alcohol, energy and gasoline, and transportation and postal services. They took effect Sunday.

Solidarity leader, Mr. Lech Walesa, said the outlawed labour movement was "ready and prepared to take up action to resist the price hikes in line with the general decision of workers."

"This time the working world should not agree to these price hikes," said Mr. Walesa, in a statement read over the telephone from his Gdansk apartment. "They (the authorities) do not have a programme of getting out of the (economic) crisis."

"Only a decided stand by workers... may guarantee that the state enters the road in the direction of reforms," he said.

The government communique announcing the price hikes reflected its concern over worker reaction. Price increases are a sensitive issue among Poland's volatile working class and led to worker revolts in 1970, 1976 and 1980.

The ministry of finance, in a communique read over radio and television, said the price rises were lower than originally planned in response to criticism from the official Trade Union Federation.

The ministry said it would also partially meet union demands by increasing compensation payments to low-income groups in order to offset the impact of the price rises.

"The government is aware that any price hikes are received very reluctantly," the communique said. "They are, however, an economic necessity and resigning from them this year would have been from an economic point of view harmful and dangerous."

Mr. Walesa said the only way the authorities could effectively reform the economy was by restoring trade union freedoms and other rights won by workers in the August 1980 protests that led to Solidarity's birth. Solidarity was outlawed under martial law in 1982.

The All-Poland Trade Union Alliance, known by its Polish initials Opz, had warned earlier this month that it would undertake protest actions unless the government revised its pricing plans which it said were "unacceptable" to workers.

"The Opz, which was set up by communist authorities to replace Solidarity, announced Thursday it had agreed to a compromise on the price issue after the government agreed to reduce the planned price increases.

The government communique said the costs of basic foodstuffs would rise by an average of 9.6 per cent this year instead of by 13 per cent as originally planned.

The government said that effective Sunday it would raise the price of gasoline and motor oil, cigarettes and alcohol, and most basic food staples, including bread, flour, milk, cheese, butter, sugar, tea, and cooking oil.

The food price rises ranged from seven per cent for cooking oil to as high as 25 per cent for tea and butter. The price of a standard loaf of bread went up from 28 to 32 zlotys, or 14 per cent.

Cigarette and liquor prices were raised by an average of 20 per cent, while the price of a litre of regular gasoline went up by 25 per cent.

It said the alcohol and cigarette price hikes were necessary in order to reduce consumption of the items, which had breached "a dangerous scale."

There are 240 zlotys to the U.S. dollar, according to the official rate of exchange. The average monthly salary is about 25,000 zlotys (\$104).

The communique added that on Wednesday the government would raise meat prices by an average of 10 per cent and the price of coal, gas and electricity, central heating and hot water by from 23 to 51 per cent.

The government said it had scaled down the planned price hikes for central heating and hot water from 100 per cent to 50 per cent in response to union demands.

The International Monetary Fund, which Poland rejoined last year, has insisted that the Warsaw government introduce austerity measures as a condition for receiving urgently needed economic credits to modernise the economy and meet payments on the country's \$33.5 billion foreign debt.

Gulf Air faces falling revenue but seeks to expand routes

BAHRAIN (R) — Loss-making Gulf Air, expecting a further fall in revenue this year, plans in the longer-term to press ahead with expansion of its route network, a senior company official said last week.

The airline, hit hard by the Middle East recession and cut-throat competition, slid into the red last year to the tune of four million dinars (\$10.6 million).

Revenue is projected to fall 14 per cent this year to 172 million dinars (\$460 million) and will be nearly 24 per cent lower than 1985's level.

But Sheikh Hamad Al Medfa, vice-president for marketing, said Gulf Air intends to push ahead with development of new routes, with the Far East and Europe offering most potential.

"In the longer term, the United States and Australia are another possibility," he told Reuters dur-

ing a break in the airline's annual marketing conference.

Gulf Air, owned by the states of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the emirate of Abu Dhabi, has a fleet of eight Boeing 737s, one Boeing 747 and 11 Lockheed Tri-Stars.

Austerity measures will see the leases on two planes given up later this year, but Sheikh Medfa was more optimistic about the longer-term prospects for the Gulf carrier.

"Financially the company is in a very sound position," he said. "Operating results were not as favourable as they used to be due to economic conditions... but as we understand from different specialists economic conditions are improving."

In 1985 Gulf Air had recorded net profit of 12.7 million dinars (\$33.7 million).

Nazer visits Washington today

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Hisham Nazer will fly to Washington Monday for talks with U.S. government officials, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported Sunday.

The agency said that Sheikh Nazer, who accompanied King Fahd to London on a state visit last week and had talks with British officials, will also deliver a lecture on the petrochemical industry on April 6.

SPA gave no further details. Sheikh Nazer replaced Saudi Arabia's long-serving oil minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani last October and since then has also visited Egypt, the Soviet Union and Norway.

A graduate in international relations and political science from the University of California, this will be his first trip to the United States as oil minister.

China's foreign debt totals \$20.6b

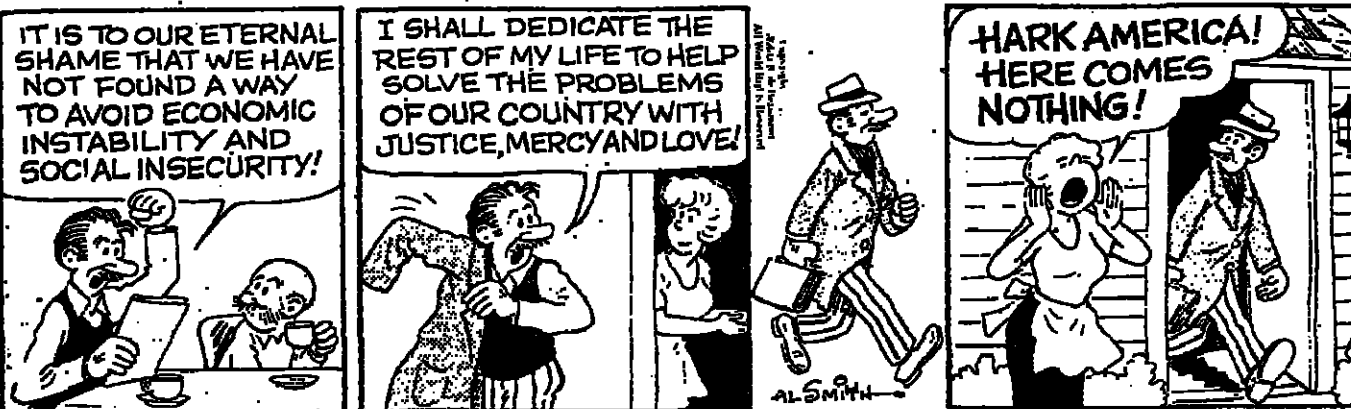
PEKING (R) — A Chinese leader said last week that the country's foreign debt was rising but not to a dangerous level and China valued its good credit rating in the world. Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun told a rare press conference for foreign journalists that the debt, including foreign investment, was \$20.6 billion in December, of which \$7.6 billion was in long-term low-interest loans. "Considering the national economic strength of China and the scale of its imports and exports, this level of foreign debt can be sustained by China now and has not developed to a dangerous point," he said. Finance Minister Wang Bingqian said in his budget speech on Thursday that foreign borrowing in 1987 would be almost double the 1986 level and nearly six times the 1985 amount. Under Chairman Mao Tse-Tung's rule from 1949-1976, China borrowed very little abroad, insisting that nearly all development be financed from the country's own resources. Mr. Tian took the opposite view. "It is not enough for us to rely totally on our own funds and capital (to achieve modernisation). We have to have the courageous spirit to borrow a certain amount of foreign loans," he said.

Horoscope and Crosswords not received

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

